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LA POLITIQUE.

Les relations avec l'U.S.S.R.

Au fond, rien n'est plus simple que cette question de reconnaissance officielle de l'U.R.S.S., qui a ouvert, trop grandes peut-être, les écluses de l'éloquence, au Conseil national.

Un débat du genre de celui qui s'est institué à ce propos montre, une fois de plus, combien peu de gens savent s'en tenir au thème imposé. Dans les écoles, on met une moins bonne note à l'élève qui, tout en s'exprimant assez bien, se perd dans des digressions capricieuses, au lieu de traiter le sujet indiqué par le maître. Jugés d'après ce critère, les orateurs de la Chambre dite populaire n'auraient pas tous mérité un 4. Les uns sont remontés, sinon au Déluge, du moins à Lenine — pourquoi pas à Ivan le Terrible? — les autres nous ont dit combien d'enfants les bolchévistes dépècent chaque matin pour les manger à leur déjeuner; d'autres encore, combien, selon les statistiques les plus dignes de créance, on envoie chaque année de popes et d'ouvriers socialistes dans les îles Soloviev ou dans les blanches solitudes de la Sibérie.

En outre, sept ou huit discours ont répété exactement les mêmes renseignements, les mêmes chiffres, relatifs aux achats de l'U.R.S.S. en Europe et à sa balance commerciale. L'argument est d'ailleurs fort bon, d'une pertinence incontestable. Mais en dépit du proverbe: "Bis repetita placent," les raisons les meilleures n'ont pas besoin d'être articulées cinquante fois pour devenir intelligibles. On pourrait donc être plus bref, plus concis, sans dommage pour la vérité, ni pour les intérêts du pays.

Et cela d'autant plus que, dès mardi soir, les positions étaient prises. Le parti conservateur n'a jamais varié sur ce point: il demeure opposé à la reprise de relations avec les Soviets comme il l'a toujours été; mais le parti radical, où se manifestaient certaines tendances favorables à la thèse des "motionnaires," s'est prononcé, à une immense majorité, pour la politique du Conseil fédéral; le parti agrarien, où les partisans de la reprise n'étaient pas rares, a fini par se ranger, lui aussi, compact, sous le drapeau de l'intégrité nationale. En sorte que, avant même que survint la discussion, on pouvait tenir le rejet des trois motions soviétophiles pour assuré. Dans ces conditions-là, qu'on nous le dise, quelle est l'utilité pratique d'une vingtaine de discours qui se répètent les uns les autres?

M. Motta, qui avait pris soin, comme il le fait dans des occurrences de cette gravité, d'écrire ce qu'il voulait dire, afin que son verbe ne dépassât jamais sa pensée, a parlé avec une parfaite netteté et a défendu, avec une logique serrée, la thèse de la non-reconnaissance. Modéré dans la forme, mais vigoureux dans le raisonnement, il a certainement rallié à l'opinion du Conseil fédéral les derniers hésitants du côté bourgeois. Dans l'après-midi, on a entendu, entre autres, M. Musy, qui a mis en évidence les dangers de la propagande communiste au point de vue intérieur — et de fait, c'est exactement de cela qu'il s'agissait, non d'autre chose —, M. Aubert, qui a longuement parlé de la situation actuelle en U.R.S.S., M. Nictlisbach, président du parti conservateur, qui s'est exprimé en termes pleins de force et d'humour.

Vaincus d'avance, les partisans de la reprise des relations devaient donner leur son de cloche dans la matinée de jeudi — tandis que les cérémonies de la Fête-Dieu, à Fribourg comme à Lucerne et à Sion comme à Stans, retendraient quelques parlementaires bénis de Dieu autour du dais et de la procession traditionnelle.

Léon Savary.

(La Tribune de Genève).

THE SWISS REARM.

A National Sacrifice.

The denunciation by Germany of the Locarno Treaty has been a particularly severe blow to the confidence Switzerland had hitherto placed in international agreements, because her own existence and neutrality are recognised and guaranteed by international treaties. She fears that Germany, who is among the Powers that gave the guarantee, may one day be tempted to cancel it as lightly as she denounced Locarno.

That anxiety, heightened by the political chaos of Europe, has now led the Swiss Government to take new measures for their national defence, which trust in treaties and in the League had made them neglect. Last year the Swiss Parliament authorised the Government to spend 85,000,000f. (nearly £5,667,000) to build some fortifications along the northern frontier, improve the artillery, and develop the Air Corps. The electorate also accepted by a small majority a Bill for the extension of instruction and training in the Army units. These measures are now regarded as quite inadequate.

A few days ago the Swiss National Council, or Second Chamber of Parliament, adopted the Government scheme for raising a loan of £15,500,000 for the complete reorganization of national defence. About £11,000,000 is likely to be spent on fortifications and air reinforcement, and by a new system the immediate manning of

the fortifications will be assured even before mobilization. As the Constitution does not allow a permanent army, the fortifications will be manned by local troops especially trained. About £3,200,000 is to be spent on anti-aircraft defence, particularly on guns and machine-guns, and nearly £3,627,000 on the Air Corps, two-thirds of it for the purchase and construction of new machines. Another £934,000 will go to heavy machine-guns for the infantry, and guns and tanks are to be bought for special light army units on the frontiers. New heavy batteries and modern guns will cost £1,734,000, £534,000 will be wanted to refit old and inadequate equipment and ammunition, and the rest will go on renovation of the pioneers, wireless and medical services.

PARTIES UNITED.

From these sums £11,700,000 will be spent in the country, benefiting home industry and labour and helping to combat unemployment. The money is to be obtained by a national loan at 2 per cent. It will mean a great effort and sacrifice from a population which hardly exceeds four millions, but the Swiss, resolved to defend their territory and neutrality against all comers, understand that at present their only hope resides in the strength and determination of a well-armed and well-equipped army. The Government's proposal has been adopted by 139 votes to 10, supported by nearly all the parties; eight Socialists and two Communist deputies opposed, 12 Socialists abstaining. The trade unions and several sections of the Socialist Party which last year opposed the scheme, had since then changed their minds.

The menace is chiefly from without the walls, though within it is not to be neglected, and a number of spies have been caught. Nazi propaganda has been working hard, but with little effect. The Swiss, a thoroughly democratic people, object to any dictatorial régime, guard jealously their independence, and are generally averse to foreign influences. There is a pro-Nazi movement, the so-called Front, mainly formed of German naturalized Swiss, which was very active until the middle of 1934, when relations were so difficult that Frontists and their opponents, particularly in Zurich, came now and then to blows. Since then the importance of the movement decreased, its decline accelerated by events in Germany in 1934, and various Germano-Swiss incidents, among them the Jakob kidnapping.

PATRIOTS IN LANGUAGE.

German-speaking Switzerland has always been somewhat influenced by Germany through ties of family, language, literature, and economics. But there is now a marked Swiss nationalist revival in the German-speaking Cantons, characterized by the revival of ancient Swiss customs and turns of speech. The German-speaking Swiss have always shown some contempt for the German language, and have jealously preserved their coarse *Schwyzerdütsch* dialects in ordinary intercourse and even in Parliament and the Courts of Justice. The difficulty is that *Schwyzerdütsch* consists of a number of dialects varying from one valley to another so different that a man from Uri can hardly understand a man from Berne. A Zürich professor has now launched the idea of definitively abolishing Reich German and substituting a Swiss German which would be a compound of the *Schwyzerdütsch* dialects. The sympathy the suggestion has everywhere met shows the desire of the German-speaking Swiss to free themselves from all that is purely German, and literary and theatrical productions in dialect have had a success.

Another sign of reaction against German influence may be found in the decision already taken by a number of Communes in the German-speaking Cantons to suspend all naturalizations for several years. During the past years nearly 70 per cent. of the naturalized persons were German. Opposition to Germany is more marked in French and Italian-speaking Switzerland for racial and traditional reasons, and for political reasons among the Socialists all over the country.

The geographical position of Switzerland, surrounded by big Powers makes of this small country a most important strategical point in Western Europe. It is in fact a key to many military doors, commanding the roads leading westwards to France, northwards to Germany, eastwards to Austria, and southwards to Italy. Switzerland can — and that was proved during the Great War — afford an invaluable protection to her neighbours so long as she remains free and neutral. Neutrality nowadays requires the support of a strong army, and for that reason Switzerland is — though not with a light heart — arming herself to the utmost.

(Times).

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Depuis des années, le "City Swiss Club" organise chaque été habituellement deux réunions au "Brent Bridge Hotel" à Hendon, qui sont particulièrement appréciées des membres, leurs familles et amis. A pareille époque, non seulement des mois se sont écoulés depuis le Banquet Annuel en novembre, ou depuis la dernière soirée dansante de l'hiver, ces rares occasions au calendrier où — comme le fit remarquer à propos le très sympathique Président mardi dernier — le "City Swiss Club" a le privilège d'avoir la compagnie agréable des dames; entretemps, une assemblée générale annuelle a eu lieu, qui, ainsi que le veut une vieille tradition, a donné un nouveau Comité à cette vénérable société des Suisses de la "City."

Il est tout naturel, dès lors, que les membres du Club, leurs familles et amis, se soient donné rendez-vous nombreux pour cette réunion d'été au "Brent Bridge" — la seule cette année — tenue donc mardi 16 juin, par un temps idéal.

Depuis l'an dernier, le "Brent Bridge" alors en train d'être rénové a changé quelque peu d'aspect et y a certainement gagné à tous points de vue, ce qui n'a pas manqué d'ajouter à l'agrément de cette dernière soirée.

A la fin de l'excellent dîner, après les "toasts" traditionnels, le jovial Président actuel du Club, Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, adressa quelques paroles de bienvenue à l'assemblée, avec mention particulière aux dames; puis s'excusant de ne pouvoir citer individuellement les invités, il tint à signaler cependant la présence du nouveau directeur de l'agence à Londres des Chemins de fer fédéraux, Monsieur Cérésolo, accompagné de Madame Cérésolo, et à leur dire tout le plaisir que le Comité et les membres éprouvaient de les saluer au sein du Club.

Monsieur Cérésolo remercia brièvement et une charmante jeune compatriote répondit également au nom des dames.

Sur quoi et tandis qu'on préparait la salle pour y danser, l'assemblée s'en alla pour quelques instants de la fraîcheur agréable du jardin de l'Hotel. Et jusqu'au coup regretté de minuit, ce fut un entrain parfait, danse, chants, beaucoup de gaieté, sous la direction experte de ce maître suprême de cérémonie qu'est l'ami Carlo Chapuis.

Domage que le "City Swiss Club" ne nous donne une seconde soirée pareille cet été!

Un des quatre-vingts-dix.

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1936.

(Continued).

- July 18th-26th
Swiss Chess Tournament at Lucerne.
- July 18th and following days
Golf Match, Amateur Championship of Lucerne at Lucerne.
- July 19th
Diavolezza down-hill ski race at Pontresina.
- Automobile race, Develier-Les Rangiers, at Delémont.
- July 19th-September 6th
Weekly courses in Ice and Glacier technique (Mountaineering School at Gletsch-Belvédère).
- July 20th
Tennis tournament. Lower Engadine Championship, at Tarasp-Schuls-Vulpera.
- July 20th-25th
11th Congress of French psychiatrists and neurologists, successively at Basle, Zurich, Berne, Neuchâtel.
- Summer Vacation Course in Psychology at Lucerne.
- July 20th-26th
Child Psychology and Pedagogy Course at Geneva. (Auspices: University Institute of the Science of Education.)
- International Tennis tournaments at Wengen.
- July 20th-August 28th
Course of the Geneva School of International Studies (Prof. A. Zimmern) at Geneva.
- July 20th-September 5th
Institute of World Affairs, etc., at Geneva. (Auspices: Students' International Union).
- July 20th-September 30th
Special Exhibition of Alpine Paintings, Art Museum, Neuchâtel.
- July 20th-October 10th
Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Lausanne.
- July 23rd
Venetian Night Festival at Geneva.
- July 24th-August 2nd
Lucerne Cantonal Shooting Festival at Hochdorf near Lucerne.
- July 25th
Concert in the Kursaal at Interlaken. (Orchestra and soloists).
- July 25th-August 3rd
Solenne Cantonal Rifle Shooting Festival at Balsthal.
- July 26th
Golf Match, Monthly Trophy, at Lausanne.
- Alpine Festival at Unterwasser, Canton of St. Gall.

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Swiss Relay Championships at Berne.
 Summer Festival at Bretave above Villars s/Bex.
 Golf Championship of the Lower Engadine at Tarasp-Schuls-Vulpera.
 Costumes Festival (Old dances, music from 1830) at Champéry.
 Concert by mixed group of "La Chanson valaisanne" at Monthey.
 Automobile races on Weissenstein, Soleure.
 July 26th-September 13th
 Exhibition of Swiss Architecture and Interior Decoration 1925-1935, in connection with the International Art Historians' Congress (Kunstgewerbemuseum) at Zurich.
 July 27th-August 2nd
 Suvretta Tennis Tournament, Grisons Championship, at St. Moritz.
 July 29th-August 4th
 World Theosophical Congress at Geneva.
 July 30th-August 15th
 Seminar on Contemporary Theological Problems at Geneva. (Auspices: University of Geneva).
 July 31st-August 9th
 International Temperance Congress at Zurich.
 August 1st
 Swiss Independence Day Celebrations everywhere.
 Kulm Tennis Tournament (Engadine Championship) at St. Moritz.
 August 2nd
 National Costumes Festival at Klosters.
 Geneva Bicycle Championship at Geneva.
 International water-polo match: Western Switzerland vs. Catalonia (N. E. Spain) at Nyon.
 Riding Meet at Bienne.
 Sports competitions and swimming championships at Champéry.
 Summer Festival at Taveyannaz above Villars s/Bex.
 August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
 Open-air William Tell Performances at Interlaken.
 August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th
 Golf Cups Contests at Lucerne.
 August 3rd
 Golf Championship on the Engadine Links, Inn Cup, at Samaden-St. Moritz.
 August 3rd or 4th.
 International Swimming Meet: Switzerland vs. Spain, at Berne.
 August 3rd-10th
 Arosa Tennis Championships at Arosa.
 August 8th-9th
 Swiss Yodeling Festival at Soleure.
 National horse mart, horse races, at Saignelégier (Jura).
 August 8th or 15th
 Venetian Night Festival at Thun.
 August 9th.
 Summer Festival at Anzeindaz above Villars s/Bex.
 Concert in the Kursaal at Interlaken (Orchestra and soloists).
 August 9th-10th
 "Chilbi" at Urnäsch, Appenzell.
 August 10th
 Vulpera Tennis Championships at Vulpera.
 August 10th-16th
 Palace Tennis Tournament, St. Moritz Championship, at St. Moritz.
 August 10th-September 2nd
 Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Neuchâtel (2nd series).
 August 11th and following days
 Engadine Golf Championship, Engadine golf links, at Samaden-St. Moritz.
 August 14th
 Canadian Choir Concert in Kursaal at Interlaken.
 Middle of August
 1936 International Alpine Automobile contests at St. Moritz.
 Automobile Show, combined with Fashion Displays, at Dolder, Zurich.
 August 15th
 Ping Pong Championship at Lausanne-Ouchy Bathing Beach.
 Cantonal Musical Festival (Brass instruments) at Couvet (Neuchâtel).
 Venetian Night Festival at Geneva.
 August 15th-23rd
 Bicycle World Championships, Zurich/Berne.
 August 16th
 Grisons Wrestling Festival at Arosa.
 Vulpera Golf Championship at Tarasp-Schuls-Vulpera.
 August 16th-22nd
 International Chemical Conference at Lucerne.
 Course of the Geneva Institute of International Relations at Geneva.
 August 16th and 23rd
 Golf Contests, with Cups, at Lausanne.
 August 16 and following days
 Golf Championship (Johnnie Walker Cup) at Lucerne.
 August 17th-23rd
 International Tennis Tournament, Bernese Oberland Championship, at Wengen.
 Open Tennis Tournament, Valais Championship, at Champéry.

August 17th and following days
 International Tennis Tournaments, Interlaken Championships, at Interlaken.
 August 19th
 Start of International Alpine Race for Automobiles at Lucerne.
 August 22nd-29th
 Debussy Festival at Geneva.
 August 23rd
 Swiss Grand Prix for Automobiles at Berne.
 Golf Match (Colburn Cup) for Ladies Only, at Lucerne.
 August 23rd-September 22nd
 2nd Exhibition of Swiss Alpine Paintings, under auspices of the Swiss Alpine Club at Geneva.
 August 23rd-September 27th
 Exhibition of 19th Century Swiss painters, Kunsthalle, at Berne.
 August 26th
 Congress for Pure and Applied Chemistry at Zurich.
 August 26th-28th
 Finish of the International Alpine Competition for Automobiles, dividing of prizes, at Interlaken.
 August 26th-September 2nd
 International Tennis Championships at Lucerne.
 August 29th-30th
 Lake of Geneva Walking Championship: "Tour de Lemán" at Geneva.
 Lake of Geneva Sailing Rally, and International Regatta at Lausanne-Ouchy.

(To be continued).

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, June 26th (Supper at 6.30 p.m.) — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the N.S.H. London Group, at the Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Wednesday, July 1st, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 71, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

7h. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

MARIAGE.

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M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes

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11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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