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LA POLITIQUE.

La Suisse et l'Ethiopie.

La reconnaissance "de jure" de la souveraineté italienne sur l'Ethiopie a été évoquée mardi au Conseil national, comme elle l'avait été, il y a quelques jours, au Conseil des Etats, mais dans une atmosphère un peu différente. Les interventions de MM. Meierhans et consorts se greffaient sur la discussion du rapport de gestion, qui donne libre cours aux critiques les plus diverses.

Dans l'opinion publique, la décision du Conseil fédéral incriminée par les socialistes et par certains orateurs bourgeois n'a pas été parfaitement comprise, il faut le dire; et cela tient à un malentendu. Beaucoup de gens, en effet, même dans les milieux cultivés, ne savent pas ce que signifie la reconnaissance "de jure" d'un gouvernement. Ils croient, de bonne foi, quelle équivaut à approuver, à tenir pour légitimes, pour fondées en droit et en morale, les conditions dans lesquelles ce gouvernement a pris le pouvoir ou a étendu sa conquête sur une région donnée. Or, il n'est pas question de cela.

Comme M. Motta, président de la Confédération et chef du département politique l'a très judicieusement exposé devant l'assemblée, la reconnaissance "de facto" et la reconnaissance "de jure" ne se distinguent l'une de l'autre qu'en ceci, que la première suppose un état de fait provisoire, transitoire, tandis que la seconde constate un état durable, définitif, — à vues humaines, cela va de soi, et pour autant qu'il y ait quoi que ce soit de définitif en ce monde.

En déclarant que la Suisse reconnaît la souveraineté italienne sur l'Ethiopie, et qu'elle la reconnaît "de jure," le Conseil fédéral unanime (et non point M. Motta seul, sur lequel daubent la presse d'extrême-gauche et certains aristocrates qui font figure de chevaliers servants de la S.D.N.) a simplement tiré une conclusion des faits. Il a constaté que l'Italie a conquis l'Ethiopie et y a établi un régime nouveau. Il a estimé que la Suisse ne pouvait feindre d'ignorer cet événement, et qu'en l'occurrence elle devait se soucier de ses intérêts et de ceux de ses nationaux plutôt que d'une idéologie doctrinale. Le gouvernement central a bien manœuvré et a saisi l'occasion propice; s'il avait tardé, s'il n'avait pas profité de l'acalmie qui se manifestait en Europe, c'est alors qu'il eût paru faire un geste tendancieux. Au moment où il a pris sa décision, après mûr examen, et après que d'autres eurent donné l'exemple, ses intentions ne pouvaient être suspectées.

S'ensuit-il que la Suisse affirme, par là même, que l'Italie a eu raison de conquérir l'Ethiopie? Nullement. Elle n'a pas à se prononcer sur ce point, n'étant à aucun titre, que l'on sache, l'arbitre des nations, le censeur de la vie internationale. Au moment où les sanctions ont été déclenchées par la S.D.N. (dans des conditions dont il faut d'ailleurs se souvenir), elle s'y est ralliée, pour autant que sa neutralité le lui permettait. Maintenant, il y a une situation acquise; et il faudrait avoir perdu l'esprit pour admettre que cette situation puisse être modifiée autrement que par une guerre. C'est précisément là tout ce qu'il importe de savoir pour reconnaître "de jure" le régime italien dans les Etats de l'ancien négus. Celui-ci n'envoie plus de délégués à la S.D.N., parce qu'il n'ignore pas que ces délégués ne verraient pas leur mandat validé. Sous une forme ou sous une autre, les autres pays constatent, eux aussi, le fait accompli. Nous n'avons rien tenté de plus.

M. Motta a très opportunément rappelé qu'après la défaite française, en 1871, la Suisse a reconnu également les effets du traité de Francfort. Est-ce à dire qu'elle estimait légitime la conquête de l'Alsace-Lorraine par l'Allemagne? Aucunement. Elle enregistrait un fait, et rien de plus. De même, après la grande guerre, la Suisse est entrée en relations avec les Etats formés en vertu des nouveaux traités de Versailles, de Trianon, etc., sans se prononcer pour autant sur l'équité de ces traités, mais en se souciant, uniquement, des conséquences qu'ils déplaient.

Une mauvaise interprétation du sens de ces mots: "de jure," a faussé la position du problème pour nombre de gens; quelques-uns, malheureusement, en ont pris prétexte pour accuser le Conseil fédéral d'une complaisance à l'égard de notre voisin du Sud, qui lui est totalement étrangère.

Le débat qui s'est déroulé au Conseil national, et où l'on a regretté de voir certains représentants des partis nationaux faire le jeu de l'extrême-gauche, a surabondamment prouvé quelle confusion régnait, à cet égard. A la réflexion, les esprits sensés se rendront compte de leur méprise.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève).

AN ANNIVERSARY.



We are extending heartiest congratulations and best wishes to M. H. Senn, who has recently celebrated his 50th birthday Anniversary.

M. Senn has for many years played an important part in the Swiss Colony in London, where he is a popular personality.

Amongst the many offices which he has held during the last 30 years, we might mention the following:

Member of the Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and President of the Sports section of this Society for several years. Member of the Committee of the City Swiss Club and President of the Club in 1933 and 1934. President of the Swiss Rifle Association for two years running. Vice-Chairman of the House Committee of the "Home for Aged Swiss." Member of the "Swiss Sports" Committee and for 15 years its Hon. Treasurer.

In addition M. Senn has been elected a Honorary Member of the "Union Helvetia" and the "Swiss Gymnastic Society."

We sincerely hope that M. Senn will be able to render to the Colony many more services, which have been appreciated in the past by the members of the Colony and his numerous friends.

DINNER.

MME. PARAVICINI.

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and Major-General the Earl of Athlone honoured the Swiss Minister and Mme. Paravicini with their presence last Tuesday at a farewell dinner given by them for the Netherland Minister and Mme. de Marees van Swinderen.

The other guests were:—

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Anthony Eden, the Austrian Minister, the Danish Minister and Countess Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, the Swedish Minister, the Czechoslovak Minister, the Norwegian Minister, the Earl and Countess of Cromer, the Earl and Countess of Granard, the High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. Vincent Massey, Viscountess Cowdray, Lady Leonfield, Lord and Lady Lloyd.

Sir Edward and the Hon. Lady Packe, Sir Robert and Lady Vansittart, Lieutenant-General Sir Sidney and Lady Clive, Mr. J. B. Monck, Sir John and Lady Dashwood, Baroness Renata von Herwarth-Bittenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyer-Millar, Countess Ingegerd Ahlefeldt, M. s'Jacob, M. and Mme. Vincent Paravicini, Mlle. Livia Paravicini, and Mlle. Jacqueline Paravicini.

FOURTH CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE.

The fourth centenary of Lausanne University, so well known to English visitors, has just been celebrated.

The Academy of Lausanne was founded in the spring of 1537 by the Bernese, shortly after the conquest of the Vaud Canton and the religious disputes. The education of the young generation was necessary, and above all to form the ministers the Church needed.

For this reason from the very beginning the School of Lausanne required a college of seven classes and some public lectures intended for the students. The new task was confided to young men, most of whom had not yet reached 30 years of age. Conrad Gessner of Zurich, who was to be one of the greatest naturalists of the century, began at Lausanne as a professor of Greek; later on, Théodore de Bèze, the brilliant French humanist, occupied that chair with great success; Pierre Viret added the teaching of theology to his pastorate during a period often years in which he commented and criticised on the original of the old and new Testaments; whilst Maturin Cordier, the author of the "Colloques," directed the college in which François Hotman, the jurist, was to be the regent of the first class.

The School of Lausanne, the regulations of which date back to 1547, was, for 20 years, the only Protestant Academy in the French-speaking countries. Pupils were attracted to it from all

parts, and it has deserved the name of the "School of Martyrs" before Geneva.

The Academy has existed in spite of the storms which twice partially destroyed it in 1559 and in 1846; it has little by little enlarged its precincts. For more than 350 years it has educated the upper-ten of the country and contributed to its moral unity and its political independence.

The people of the Vaud Canton recognised what they owed it in consenting to the sacrifices necessary for the Academy to become a University in 1891.

In the eighteenth century the names of Barbeyrac and of Ruchat, in the nineteenth those of Vinet, of Charles and Edouard Secretan, of Walras and of Pareto, still nearer our period, those of Henri Vuilleminier, of René Guisan, of César Roux, of Marc Dufour, of Jules Gonin and of Gustave Juvet, only to cite those who have disappeared, have contributed towards the fame of this University. The students of the old Academy were the first to hear of the works, *The Canton de Vaud*, by Juste Olivier, and *Port-Royal*, by Sainte-Beuve.

Deeply rooted in the soil of the Vaud Canton, the University of Lausanne has always had foreigners amongst its professors and students, one of whom was Gibbon. It is proud of this tradition which goes as far back as the sixteenth century and which it intends to maintain.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

LECTURE.

(Continuation).

3. The third school is what we call the Locarno school, the school of Westerners, the school of limited liability. That is the school to which the present government belongs, although it never says so quite precisely. It wants to carry out our treaty obligations towards France and Belgium if they are attacked. Thus for instance in a German attack on Czechoslovakia we would keep a free hand. That is the policy of the present government, the school of Westerners who say we should keep our interests of status quo in Europe so directed that we will not say in advance, whether right or wrong, what we would do. The interests in Central and Eastern Europe are so much less ours that the government cannot and ought not to say what we would do. Our little tiny army could not be sent out of the country. If we are to intervene effectively, the volunteers must come along in millions. The government cannot see the reaction of public opinion until the emergency arises. A couple of days ago I had the visit of a distinguished Austrian and only this evening a distinguished Hungarian journalist asked me: "Why does not England say what she is going to do?" We cannot tell you what we will do! It would be folly or worse on the part of the government to give a promise which they might not be able to fulfil. If you look back at the three thoughts of school there is a great deal to be said about all of them. Our relationship involves us in the danger of another Franco-German war. It involves us once more in the danger of getting drawn into war, starting either with a Russian-Japanese war and or a Russia-German war. Much is to be said for and against these three schools of thought. The supreme issue, including our own, is when and where ought we to say we are prepared to fight. I have given you my view for what it is worth. The third school of thought is, broadly speaking, the school of the government; whether ideally best or otherwise it is the only possible school in view of the divided public opinion.

Isolation is just impossible. If we sever all connections with France she is literally at the mercy of Germany. Isolationism is impossible. Collective security in the sense that we should regard a German attack on Prague in the same light as a German attack on Brussels and Antwerp, seems to be equally impossible in the sense that your promise could be fulfilled only if the cause appealed to millions of Englishmen sufficiently to provoke them like the Belgian issue in 1914, to go and risk their lives. Unlimited commitments are, therefore, also impossible. What is left but to accept limited liability, the maintenance of the Anglo-French Block, beyond that keeping a free hand and not saying whether you will keep in or go out?

The lecturer then invited questions on these difficult and puzzling issues. Such widely diverging subjects as the possibility of American intervention, Turkey's part as an onlooker, the future of the League of Nations and the restitution of Colonies, were discussed. Of the League of Nations the lecturer said: "The prestige of the League has never been lower than it is now. It is not going to help its revival by latering the Covenant. The League will remain alive because it still performs very useful and indispensable functions, above all as Professor Gilbert Murray said, "It is an organ of consultation," which