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HAPPY SWITZERLAND.

The Extent to Which Its People Enjoy Home Rule.

A Country Where Every Citizen Is a Legislator and No Act of Government Becomes a Law Until It Has Received. the Popular Approval.

The political divisions and subdivisions of the Swiss confederation are the same as those of the United States, save that the commune performs the functions of both township and county. The citizens of a neighborhood are grouped in the government of a commune; regional interests have given rise to the canton; the federal government unites the whole people. correspondent of Geneva writes: To what extent the Swiss enjoy home rule and how far the people govern themselves directly may be seen in the operations of the referendum in each division of the state, and in the composition of the cantonal and federal executive powers.

In one form or other the system of the referendum has prevailed in some parts of Switzerland from time immemorial. To this day in many of the communes of Uri, Glaris, Schwyz, Appenzell and Unterwald the citizens meet, as did their fathers be-fore them, in the town market-place or in the open air on a mountain plain to accept or reject by a show of hands the laws laid before them by the communal councils. In these radical democracies the right of initiative belongs to every citizen, he who conceives a law having the opportunity to present it and explain it at a meeting of his fellow-electors. The Swiss commune is as nearly autonomous as is consistent with cantonal and federal rights. It is re-garded as in a state en petit. It really exercises the powers that M. de Tocqueville mistakenly attributed to the American township. It is jealous of interference by the state. It does not part with the administration of its forests, police, roads, schools, churches or asviums until the point is reached where the interest of the state manifestly take the place of locality. Through the referendum of the popular assembiages of the purely democratic communes every citizen becomes a legislator, his voice and vote directly influencing the decision of public questions. Yet even the communes having a representative government the referendum may be invoked so readily that the people hold control in de-Within a year on the official bulletin boards of a commune in Geneva was posted a printed notice announcing that, unless a vote of the people to the contrary was called for, a professor in one of the colleges would be presented by the communal council with an honorarium of ₹340.

The constitution of the canton of Geneva provides that the people may sanction or reject not only the laws passed by the cantonal legislature, but the orders issued by the cantonal legislative and executive powers. The exceptions to the exercise of the cantonal referendum are laws declared to be "of urgence" by the legislature and those relating to the annual budget, excepting when the latter establish a new tax, increasing a tax already existing, or necessitates a call for a public loan. On the demand of at least 3,500 voters-about one in four of the total number in the cantonwithin thirty days after the official publication of a law or order the question of adoption or rejection must be submitted to the people. The vote on the referendum must take place withir forty days after the thirty days just mentioned. Thus all the functions

days after the publication of the law or yet it is, nevertheless, very sad.

The cantonal and federal constitutions are called upon every fifteen years to decide whether its constitution shall be revised. The federal constitution may be revised at any time. On the petition of 56,000 voters-about one-twelfth of the total vote question whether it shall take place is submitted to the country.

The records of the referendum are curiit and the tenacity with which the democracy has clung to the conservative customs. In the fifty-five years from 1469 to 1524 the referendum was resorted to in Berne sixty times. In the six years from 1874 to 1880 five measures recommended by the federal executive and passed by both houses of the federal assembly, the members of which were elected by universal suffrage, were vetoed by a national vote. In 1880 a proposal to revise the federal constitution so as to change the regulations of the issues of bank notes was rejected by a majority of 134,000. In 1862, and again in 1878, the people of the canton of Geneva rejected a proposed change in its constitu-tion, the last time by a majority of 6 000 in a vote of 11.200. Twice since 1847 the same canton has voted not to increase the salary of the members of its executive council, and it has since declined to reduce the number of members from seven to five. The two French cantons of Geneva and Neuchatel, which only entered the confederation in the present century, adopted the referendum on the avowed ground of its efficiency as a check to hasty and inconsiderate legisla-

On the other hand, the Swiss people have shown no blird dislike of change or fear of settling once and for all questions of the gravest character. A constitution submitted to them in 1872, the work of the partisans of centralization, who had presented the programme of "an army and a wert down before a majority of 6,000. Only two years later, however, the present constitution was adopted, religious questions connected with it arousing a strong feeling. It was adopted by a vote of 340,000 against 198,000, the Catholic cantons throwing heavy majorities against it, as it suppressed convents and the Order of Jesuits in Switzerland. In 1878 in the matter of the St. Goinard tunier subsidy the Swiss people showed their capacity to appreciate questions of broad poncy. Although the granting of the subside put a strain upon the National resources and the enterprise was adverse to the local interests of cantons, haif a million voters went to the polls on a wretched day in midwinter and two-thirds of them voted "Yes."

Harmless Dynamite Bombs.

An American was arrested on the Austrian frontier for having in his luggage unmistakable dynamite bombs. On further investigation they proved to be cocoanuts. something that the Austrian authorities had

In the great Lisbon earthquake, in 1755, 6,000 houses were thrown down and 30,000 persons perished.

THE QUIET OBSERVER.

Conclusions Forced on Him by Contempiating the Lives of His Neighbors. Where do worthless men and women come from?

From worthless homes. This is probably the best direct answer that can be given to this comprehensive query, says the Pittsburgh Commercial-

Badty-reared children develop into worth less men and women. This is the rule. The exceptions either way are not numerous. Occasionally you find a boy or girl in s respectable family whose instincts are low and whose tastes are inclined to be victous. These are the "black sheep." They are not uncommon even in the pest of families. Is there any necessity for these being black when all the others are white!

In some instances there is, because some children are born with a very low order of moral sense just as some are born with a very low order of in willigence.

The greater number of wicked and immoral men and women are such pecause of defective training rather than because of inherent depravity. They have not had the advantage of an envir mment calculated to develop their tetter natures.

This should be sufficient to show the necessity of rearing children in such a way as to encourage the development of the moral faculties as well as the mental. This will afford the surest protection to society agair st crime and immorality.

How many of those who are interested in providing for neglected children in foreign countries ever think of those at home who are really in a more depiorable condition than those who are engaging their

What is to be done about it? One way is for society to take charge of every honeless smid and provide for it an environment that will tend to develop its better qualities.

Who are nomeless! All who are without the means of proper education and taining. A bouse and parents do not constitute a home in its true

be cheaper in the end than to allow them to grow up in wickedness until maturity, and then board them in jail or work-couses. Besides, this will decrease the number of criminals and the amount of crime, and in the same ratio improve society.

Something can be done by improving homes, but as a rule those who have gone so far as to settle down to living careless, immoral lives, are aimost hopeiess. They regard their children as acciuents, and nave no care for them beyond keeping them in food and clothing until they are able to take care of themselves.

What can you expect from a home the atmosphere of which is reeking with prefanity and vulgarity? You would be surprised to find purity and refinement coming from These are two of the most desirable qualities in men and women. Without them society would go to sticks in short order. They distinguish the civilized from the uncivilized.

THE UNKNOWN DEAD.

There Is No Record of Them, Save in the Book of the Secording Angel. "Found in the water the body of an unknowr man"-"found dead in an area an unknown woman" "deed at the stationhouse, where he had appued for \*helter, a mar; name unknown." Announcements to this effect, though a little more circumof a direct democracy he with the citizens of the canton in general, save that of deliberation in assembly.

stantial, appear daily in our public journals, says the New York Ledger. An unfortunate numan want grops dead in the street; Under the Swiss constitution 30,000 citi- his corpse is taken to the nearest police zens, or a majority in eight cantons, may office; twelve individuals, in a great hurry demand a popular vote on any federal law to get back to their business, say "acciwhatspever and on any order emanating | dental death," and the coroner pockets his from the legislative or executive power fee; whereupon the body is nastily thrust which is of general import or is not urgent into a pine coffin and hurried off to the in character. The petition of the federal home of the homeless and nameless-Potreferendum must be made within ninety ter's Field. It can not be helped, perhaps

But little time is given for identification -especially in summer, when the safety of are also subject to revision on a vote of the the living demands the speedy interment of people. The voters of the canton of Geneva the dead. Sometimes the only parties who "view the body" are the jurors, the coroner and the police. Once cast into a clank grave in the pauper Golgotha, the dead un-known may be considered as among the "things lost on earth." There is no record or in case either house of the federal assembly (Congress) demands a revision, the Recording Augel. Friends may mourn as loss-for semetimes the "unknown" nave friends. They may learn his fate and even trace his clay to the Cemetery of the Destious, inasmuch as they show the frequency with which the people have had recourse to shall designate his particular modering. place amid the undistinguishable nosts of mounds, as like each other as the billows of

This is not as it should be. Some relic of the unknown dead should be preserved, whereby they might, if search should be afterward made for them by friends or relatives, be identified; and the graves should be numbered and catalogued, so that on such a relic being recignized, the dust of its former possessor might be liscoverable. But who cares for the "unknown!"

Rattle his bones over the atones, He's only a pauper whom nobody owns!

THE FOOT WAS WOODEN. And Its Owner Used to Having It Stepped

On in Street Cars. A Michigan avenue car stopped at Second street recently to permit a young lady and a gentleman to get on, says the Detroit

As the former, who was young as well as pretty, passed forward to a cept a seat offered her, she tripped over the outstretched foot of an in tividual who was siting at the rear of the car. In an instant she was a'most at full

length in the bottom of the car. The exclamations of the bassengers and the black looks they directed at the evended stum-bling block should have caused its owner to sink through the seat. Quicker simost than she went down, however, she was on her feet again, and gracefully scknowledging the courtesy of the gentieman who surrendered his seat. She was greatly embarrased, and her escort looked like a thurder cloud and as if he would like to punch the head of the fellow who had caused all the trouble. But he didn't. He contented himself with occasionally stepping vigorously on the still exterded and offending foot. There did not seem to be the least sign of consciousness from its owner, while the passengers awaited the denouement. Finally, with a lurch from the car as an excuse, the foot received another ferocious dig that was so proncunced as to almost twist the man out of the seat. Thinking that perhaps he had really injured the man, the escort mittered an excuse that was received in great equanimity, with the gratifying explanation:
"Oh, don't apologize; it's a wooden one and used to being stepped on."

The Lady Took Her Time. The following quaint epitaph on breband and wife-the husband having died firstis to be seen in one of the Parisian cemeteries: "I am anxiously awaiting you-A.

good lady had taken her time about it.

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