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B E R N E.

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My Lord,

With reference to Lord Acton's despatch No. 323 of July 3, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that the movement in the Vorarlberg in favour of an union with Switzerland appears to be gaining in strength.

On the 10th instant many meetings were held all over the Vorarlberg which resulted in a resolution of protest against the Vienna Government who are accused of trying to set aside the right of self-determination in so far as the inhabitants of the Vorarlberg are concerned. It was also decided to address a direct appeal to the Swiss people in favour of the union of the Vorarlberg with Switzerland.

In this appeal, which was handed over to the Vorarlberg Government, the population of Vorarlberg refer to the right of self-determination and point out their strong wish for an union with Switzerland. They express their joy that their desire to become Swiss subjects has been favourably received by many Swiss and hope that arrangements may be made for negotiations between the Vorarlberg Government and the Swiss Confederation. They then state that the Vienna Government insist on refusing to acknowledge the right of self-determination in the case of the Vorarlberg and decline to lay the question before the conference at St. Germain. In these circumstances they appeal to Switzerland for help and hope that they may find such support in Switzerland as will enable them to secure the right of disposing of their own destinies/

The
Earl Curzon of Kedleston, E. G.,
etc. etc. etc.



destinies.

Over a hundred Vorarlberg communities have sent a joint telegram to the Swiss Federal Council in which they express their dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Vienna Government and ask the Swiss and the Federal Government to assist them in enabling the Vorarlberg to send a representative to St. Germain.

The "Bund" has published a long article on the Vorarlberg question in which the above appeal is dealt with. The article points out that so far Swiss opinion has been in favour of a policy of waiting until German Austria had given the Vorarlberg full liberty of action. After mentioning that the Swiss Confederation, as at present constituted, had developed on the basis of the right of self-determination, the article points out that from a geographical point of view the Vorarlberg belongs to Switzerland and that too much importance should not be attached to any religious and political objections against the projected Union. The decisive factor for Switzerland should lie in the fact that the appeal of the Vorarlberg is one for the right of self-determination. Such an appeal, the article continues cannot be left unanswered. As the Vorarlberg people of their own free will have asked for union with Switzerland there is no reason for the Swiss to refuse to admit them to the Confederation and the question should be looked at from a democratic point of view and be decided in accordance with democratic ideals.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) HERMAN HUMBOLDT.
P.S. According to press reports amounting to a communiqué the Federal Council does not feel inclined to undertake any steps in Paris in favour of the Vorarlberg claims with regard to the right of self-determination. In the opinion of the Federal Council representatives of the Vorarlberg should apply direct to Monsieur Clemenceau, as any steps taken by the Swiss Government might be interpreted as a wish for aggrandisement on the side of Switzerland.