SWITZERLAND.

POLITICAL.

Despatch from Lord Acton (Bern) May 14th.

D. 7.00 a. m. May 14th.
R. 10.20 p. m. " 14th.

No. 818.

My telegram No. 816.

Director of Political Department told me today that the Swiss Government would not wish to precipitate decision in respect of resolution of Vorarlberg population. Swiss Government incline to advocate union on the ground that such accretion of territory will form counterpoise to Bolshevik element in Switzerland, and will also place under Swiss control main railroad east which will thus be independent both to Germany and Italy. He does not think it in the event of union being decided upon by both parties Italy will put forward any claim for territorial compensation. Switzerland also favours union as only alternative of union with Germany. Political director does not consider Peace Conference will intervene in this question which like that of neutral zones will be (? for omitted) parties to settle amongst themselves.
Future of Vorarlberg.
Transmits Berne Telegram No. 513 referring to Berne telegram No. 916, reporting views of Director of Political Department to effect that Swiss Government does not wish to precipitate decision but is inclined to advocate union on ground that population will counterbalance Bolshevik element in Switzerland, and that main railroad to the East will be under Swiss control. He did not consider that Italy would require territorial compensation; or that Peace Conference would intervene in question.