

# Sundry news

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **13 (1948)**

Heft 5

PDF erstellt am: **29.05.2024**

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the Committee, and, should it intervene, help it to do so more easily and swiftly. They also had a definite mission, which was to visit the camps and see whether the treatment granted to the inmates was in harmony with the principles of the Convention.

It may be thought that this activity of the International Committee duplicated that of the Protecting Power. On the contrary, the two are complementary.

This is true first of all in the quantitative sense. When prisoners of war are counted by hundreds of thousands, even by millions, it is physically impossible to conduct continuous detailed inspection. Both the Protecting Power and the International Committee of the Red Cross may plan to carry out their duties with the utmost care, but they have at their disposal only a limited number of delegates, and these can only visit the camps at intervals. Then again, the condition of the prisoners of war may change quickly. Therefore, two visits are better than one; two reports, if they are in agreement, carry more weight than a single one.

It is true in the qualitative sense also. Although parallel, and leading to the same kind of visits, the same kind of conversations with the prisoners and their guards, the two activities take place on different planes. The Protecting Power, as is well known, is a neutral State to which a belligerent Power entrusts its interests in the enemy's territory, pending the restoration of direct diplomatic relations. It is a special mandatory. The International Committee, on the other hand, is nobody's mandatory; it is a neutral intermediary equally at the disposal of all. Whereas the one acts at the request of a particular State and on its behalf, and takes as its standard the text of the contract - the 1929 Convention made between its principal and the enemy, the other intervenes in the name of humanity and takes as its criterium the high principles of which the Convention is only one form of expression. The first attends only to certain prisoners of war, by reason of their nationality which makes them, so as to say, its citizens by proxy, the other is equally interested in all, simply because they are prisoners, that is to say, war victims. Again, since its act simultaneously in both camps, which is not necessarily true of the Protecting Power, the International Committee has means of comparison of which it can make use in its negotiations.

SUNDRY NEWS.

COMMISSION OF EXPERTS DEALING WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SWISS LIVING  
ABROAD.

Under the chairmanship of Federal Councillor Steiger, and in the presence of Federal Councillor Petitpierre, head of the Federal Political Department, a consultative commission of experts dealing with questions concerning the Swiss living abroad, had a meeting. Federal Councillor Petitpierre declared that legally the Confederation is not bound to make reparations for war damages to Swiss property abroad. Above all, persons who suffered such losses cannot claim any reparations arising from currency manipulations by foreign Governments. However, the Federal Council will do everything in its power to obtain satisfaction from foreign countries for war damages suffered by the Swiss, on the basis of reciprocity. It is felt as a social duty to help the numerous Swiss living abroad who are in a precarious situation as a consequence of the war. After 78 million francs had been spent by the Confederation since 1939, the Federal Assembly, in October 1946, voted a further 75 million for extraordinary assistance to the Swiss abroad.

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X DE ALTE HANNES. X  
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Wer chonnt d'ört om de Egge, ond machta G'sicht so suur,  
es ist de alte Hannes, da arme Geissepuur,  
er fuchtlet met siim Stegge, ond brommlet i siin Bart,  
so goht er j'adi Woche is Städtli of de Mart,  
es schwätzt so vor sich ane ond lueget bolzgrad uus,  
das schaffe ond das schinde, das macht ne ganz konfuus,  
er denget a sii Familie, er denget a Huus ond Wees,  
ond au a siini Scholde ond a da grosse Zees,  
ganz iifrig in Gedanke, regt er sich selber uuf,  
ond lauftdenn immer schneller, es ninnt ehm fast de Schnuuf,  
wie muess er doch all schaffe for so wenig Geld,  
ond bliibt en arme Schlocker of dere schnöde Welt,  
me chan ehm's wohl verarge, er ist en ploogete Maa,  
er ist so abe g'schunde, es g'siehtsehm jedes aa,  
er ist bekannt de Hannes, es kennt ne Gross ond Chlii,  
so goht er jedi Woche a uusem Huus vorbi,  
met siim Chorb ond Chrättli,  
stiiflet er dör's Städtli,  
goht zom Benz ond Meier,  
ond bringt ne frische Eier,  
denn trampet er dör die Gasse,  
goht i ne Beiz go jasse,  
ond trefft de Hannes of em Heiweg aa,  
es ist biim Eid zom stuune,  
de Hannes ist en andre Maa,  
i siiner beste Luune,  
er pflift denn vor sich ane, ist lostig wie nen Bueb,  
so gohter Hei de Hannes, de alte vo de Hueb,  
du machst denn grossi Auge ond meinst eschönn nöd sii,  
ond d'Ursach vo der Anderig - En halbe Liter Wii.

A. Moosberger.

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TRIAL OF SWISS NATIONAL SOCIALISTS.

The Federal Penal Tribunal entered into session in Zurich that may last for three weeks. A further group of Swiss national Socialists will have to answer for their attacks on the independence of Switzerland. During the war years they have become guilty of treacherous acts against the Confederation; they attempted, with the assistance of Germans, to transform Switzerland into a National Socialistic State. Most of them had been living in Germany. The chief accused is Franz Burri, a publicity agent, who in the meantime has been expatriated. His National Socialistic Swiss Federation in Germany, caused quite a stir in Summer of 1942.

SWISS SAMPLE FAIR.

The 32nd Swiss Sample Fair in Basle has closed its doors. 600,000 visitors attended it, of which 8,537 came from abroad representing 54 countries.

DISCOVERY OF OLD CHURCH FOUNDATIONS.

Near the church of Reithnau, the remains of old walls were discovered. According to experts they are the foundations of an old church that already existed in the year 1000 and has been mentioned in old documents. Up to the present the walls of the gallery and the nave have been excavated.



CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DIPLOMATS RESIGN.

The series of resignations of diplomatic personnel of the Czechoslovak Republic after the recent events, is continuing. The Czechoslovakian Charge d'Affaires in Switzerland, Dr. Glaser-Skalny has resigned. He declared that he did not agree with the present regime in Czechoslovakia. For the same reason the Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Legation, Mr. Renesch, has given his resignation.

FRENCH HONOUR A SWISS PROFESSOR.

The French Government has just bestowed the Cross of the Legion of Honour upon Mr. Auguste Viatte of Porrentruy, Professor of French Literature at the University of Laval, in Quebec. Likewise, the title of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour has been granted to Dr. Louis Vauthier, founder and director of the Academic Sanatorium of Leysin, Switzerland.

DISTINCTION.

The "Accademia di Belle Arti" of Perugia, which was founded in the year 1546, has nominated Mrs. Adele Ros-Theiler of Baden an Honorary Member. A similar distinction was granted her by the "Istituto de Cultura Americana" of Tolosa, La Plata, Argentino, for her research work over a period of many years, chiefly on Antonio de Corregio, the famous Italian Renaissance master.

ANNIVERSARY IN GENEVA.

Geneva has just celebrated the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. In his allocution the head of the Education Department of the Canton of Geneva, Mr. Albert Picot, passed in review the history of the school, the only one of its kind in Switzerland, and mentioned the famous painters Barthelémy Menn and Ferdinand Hodler, who were teaching there at one time.

SWISS GLIDER PILOT TRAVERSES ALPS.

The renowned Swiss glider-pilot, Siegbert Maurer has just crossed the northern chain of the Alps in his glider. This is the first time that such a feat has been performed. He started in Magadino, Canton of Tessin, and in a flight lasting five hours that took him over the Gotthard, he landed near Basle.

SWISS ALPINISTS IN PERU.

Recently, a small group of Swiss alpinists left Switzerland in order to climb mountain peaks in the unexplored Alps of Peru, on which occasion they will make alpine explorations there.

SWISS WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

More than 500 delegates of Swiss women's associations convened in Bern on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Swiss Constitution. They asked that the women be given equal political rights as enjoyed by the men. They further requested that Swiss women do not lose their nationality by marrying foreigners and also, that all professions be open to women and that they enjoy the same pay as men for equal work.

NOTICE TO READERS.

Will any person knowing the present whereabouts of the following:-

Jost LOTTENBACH

Pauline HOLZMANN

kindly communicate with the Swiss Consulate, Wellington. Relatives of these two compatriots have asked the Consulate to ascertain their present address.