

# Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NOTIFICATION

THE SWISS LEGATION desire to inform all whom it may concern that, according to arrangements made with the British Authorities, the *British Passport Office* are granting *return visas to Swiss residents* in this country.

Applications should be addressed, accompanied by the passport and the identity book or certificate of registration, to the

PASSPORT CONTROL DEPARTMENT,  
66, VICTORIA STREET, S.W. 1,

by which Department they will be forwarded to the Passport Office, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, S.W. 1, for the grant of the necessary visa. (Cost about 10/-, which may be remitted by postal order.) A personal attendance will greatly accelerate the procedure.

## HOME NEWS

The eighteenth session of the League of Nations Council was opened at Geneva on May 12th.

\* \* \*

The Russian Soviet Government has telegraphically enquired of Professor Louis Duparc, member of the Geneva University and Director of the Chemical Institute at Geneva, whether he would be prepared immediately to assume control of the Russian Platinum Industry, and reorganise same.

Professor Duparc has accepted the appointment, and will leave for Russia, accompanied by Mr. Charles Couchet, Civil Engineer, also of Geneva.

\*\*\*

Certain lugubrious statistics for 1921 show that derailments and collisions on Swiss Railways caused the death of 69 people; boarding or leaving trains in motion, crossing of railway tracks, etc., are responsible for a death roll of 68 persons, 30 of whom were railway employees; and 16 persons committed suicide by throwing themselves in front of approaching trains.

\* \* \*

At Scheuren (Berne) a family of five members were taken seriously ill after partaking of omelettes, the head of the family and the eldest son dying almost immediately.

A post-mortem examination revealed acute poisoning as the cause of death, and it has since been established that, presumably by mistake, the mother of the family had sprinkled the omelettes with white arsenic instead of with castor sugar.

\* \* \*

OBITUARY.—The Swiss Consul-General for Jugoslavia, M. Christian Vögeli, from Glarus, died at Belgrade on May 11th, aged 50.

\* \* \*

Sir Henry Angst, Hon. British Consul in Zurich from 1886 till 1916, died on May 14th under the paternal roof where he was born, at Regensburg, near Zurich.

In an appreciation, headed "A Swiss Friend of Britain," *The Times* (May 15th) says:—

"Sir Henry Angst, K.C.M.G., was all his life a warm friend and champion of Great Britain in Switzerland. Angst was also an antiquary and collector of European repute.

Born on October 18th, 1847, at Regensburg, near Zurich, where his father filled an official position, as members of his family had done for nearly three centuries, young Angst passed from the Zurich Gymnasium to the Federal Polytechnic School. Prevented from becoming an architect by a severe affection of the eyes, he engaged in the silk trade, the staple of Zurich, and visited two factories in Lombardy to master the manufacture in detail. Soon he migrated to London, where he was connected with a well-known Swiss firm of silk merchants, of which the head was for many years Swiss Consul-General here. Angst visited later both Lyons and Milan, and in 1878 returned to Zurich as representative of the London house, a position which he kept for ten years.

Meantime, by his visits to London he attained a thorough mastery of English, both in speaking and writing, and became an intimate friend of Sir Wollaston Franks, the archæologist, one of the high officials at the British Museum at that day. After his return to Switzerland Angst became, in 1886, British Vice-Consul at Zurich, and soon after Consul-General for the German and Italian-speaking cantons, a position from which he was promoted to the Consul-Generalship for Switzerland—an unpaid but important office—in 1896. Both in Switzerland and in England Angst had acquired a high reputation as an antiquary and collector of ceramics and antiquities. He had been devoted from boyhood, as his father had been, to archæology, and became in early life the friend and disciple of Ferdinand Keller, the greatest Swiss archæologist. He took an active part in the prolonged agitation for the establishment of the Swiss National Museum, and when it was at last established at Zurich, his efforts and his gifts of pottery and other collections were naturally acknowledged by his appointment, in 1892, to be director, a post which he only accepted on condition of retaining his British Consulship. Under his care the National Museum grew to be a model of such institutions, and his annual reports were highly valued by archæologists everywhere. He held on, in spite of constant German intrigues, until 1903, and then he resigned the directorship for health reasons only. . . .

In March, 1916, Angst resigned the office of British Consul-General. He had been made C.M.G. in 1902, and K.C.M.G. in 1906; he received honorary degrees from the University of Zurich and from Harvard; he was an honorary Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; and in 1903 he was elected a member of the Athenæum Club under Rule II, the distinction which, perhaps, he most highly valued. Whenever he was in England he frequented the club, where he met many persons of con-

genial tastes, and not a few old intimates. His geniality and kindness won him wide popularity in England, as well as abroad, and his comprehensive knowledge of artistic and archaeological subjects, as well as of European politics and personalities, made his conversation as interesting as it was instructive. Sir Henry Angst married an English lady, who died before him, leaving no children."

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SWISS LEGATION

### HOSPITALS OF LONDON COMBINED APPEAL.

The Swiss Legation inform us that the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. the Spanish Ambassador, has addressed a circular note to the foreign Missions accredited to the Court of St. James's, suggesting a special subscription amongst the foreign colonies in the United Kingdom in favour of the London Hospitals. Attached to his note was a copy of the "Hospitals of London Combined Appeal," organized by King Edward's Hospital Fund, under the patronage of H.M. the King.

His Excellency pointed out that in view of the very difficult financial position of these charitable institutions an effort made by the foreign residents would be highly recommendable.

At the meeting of the Presidents of the Swiss Societies in London, held at the Legation on May 16th, this proposition has been discussed. It was agreed that in view of the fact that the majority of the Swiss residents in London have already received individually the said appeal and sent in contributions to some extent; that, on the other hand, a special collection is made every year in the Swiss Church in favour of the London Hospitals; and that the Legation have, owing to the present state of things, been obliged to appeal repeatedly to the charity of their countrymen, a subscription to the said purpose hardly seems justified.

However, the desire was expressed at the meeting that the matter should be reported in *The Swiss Observer*, with the view of drawing once more the attention of the Swiss Colony to the difficulties experienced by the London Hospitals, and of reminding Swiss residents that donations may be forwarded to the Treasurers and Trustees, Hospitals of London Combined Appeal, 19, Berkeley Street, W.1.

To the Editor *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—Some time ago members of the Swiss Colony have drawn my attention to two articles published in the Swiss papers "L'Impérial" and "La Tribune de Lausanne," insinuating that a Swiss firm established in London had made a "report" to the Foreign Office suggesting that the British visa for Swiss citizens should be maintained. It was added that this extraordinary step had been taken by "one of the most influential members of the Swiss Colony in England."

I have not failed to make the necessary enquiry on the subject, and I am glad to be able to inform you that, according to a note received from the Foreign Office, no trace of such correspondence can be found in any Department of His Majesty's Government.

I should feel obliged if you would kindly publish a communication to that effect in *The Swiss Observer*.

Yours, etc.,  
C R. PARAVICINI.

BOARD-RESIDENCE in comfortable home overlooking Park; easy access to all parts of town; young society; breakfast, late dinner, full board week-ends; inclusive per week £2 2s.—Grafton House, The Vale, Acton, W.3.

## Swiss Club—Schweizerbund,

74, CHARLOTTE STREET, W. 1.

Telephone: Museum 6420.

## Special Evening

on the occasion of the

## SWISS SPORTS DAY

Saturday, May 27th next.

PRIVATE BUSES will start from the above Club for the Herne Hill Athletic Grounds at 1.45 p.m., due back at the Club by 9.15 p.m.

RETURN FARE 2/6 each.

Seats can be booked with the Steward of the Club, Mr. A. Isler.

### A SELECT SUPPER

will be served at the Club at 2/- per head, to be followed by a DANCE for which the services of a special Swiss Band have been secured.

Extensions till 12 and Dancing till 1 a.m.

The Committee.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE BIG FIGHT.

By a Spectator.

Urgent business had kept me late at the office on Thursday, May 11th. It was past ten when, walking up Fleet Street, homeward bound, my thoughts on the day's affairs were suddenly interrupted by the shrill voices of the newspaper boys announcing the "Result of the Big Fight."

Everybody knows now what happened: how Carpentier struck the much discussed knock-out blow within 150 seconds.

I drew a mental picture of the large crowds assembled at Olympia to witness the contest of the two champions. I could hear the shouts of triumph in favour of the successful winner and the groans of disappointment and despair of those who backed the loser.

And being a business man, I was envious of the large amount of free publicity given by the Press in favour of two gentlemen who in return had nothing to offer which would benefit mankind, although I realised that the anticipation of this free publicity was a large factor in the minds and calculations of the promoters in fixing up the respective purses for the prize fighters.

### Net Result of the Big Fight:—

A third-rate pugilistic display lasting 150 seconds  
Disappointed spectators ... .. 20,000

But

|  |     |        |
|--|-----|--------|
| Hard cash for Carpentier   | ... | £7,500 |
| do. for Kid Lewis  | ... | £2,500 |
| do. for the Promoters  | ... | £ x    |
| Educational, humanitarian, benevolent or scientific contribution | ... | NIL.   |

\* \* \*

And then my mind turned to another Big Fight, a