

# Notes and gleanings

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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

In reply to a provocative note of the Soviet Government, inculcating our authorities for the Lausanne Murder, the Federal Council rejects in dignified terms this monstrous accusation, adding that the affair will form the subject of an independent investigation by the local judiciary court.

(According to an unconfirmed "Times" telegram (May 25th) numerous arrests have been carried out among the Swiss colonies in Moscow, Petrograd and Kieff as a reprisal for the assassination of Vorovsky. The grant of visas to Swiss nationals wishing to enter or leave Russia has been prohibited by the Soviet executive.)

The late Professor Eugen Huber has left his property to the Swiss Confederation, with the obligation that his private residence in the "Rabbenenthal," including the valuable library, should be turned into a law college attached to the University of Berne.

Mr. C. F. J. Schnyder von Wartensee, the vice-president of the Swiss National Bank, has been appointed financial adviser to the Austrian Government. Born in Sursee (1874), he is a member of one of the oldest Lucerne families, whose name is closely connected with the historic days of the Battle of Sempach. The older members of the London Colony will remember Mr. Schnyder in his younger days, when, at the beginning of this century, he spent some years in this metropolis (Crédit Lyonnais), and, if we remember rightly, was at one time a student of the educational department of the Swiss Mercantile Society. From London he went to Italy, later on to South America, and on his return to Switzerland he distinguished himself in the reorganisation of the Banque de l'Etat de Fribourg.

The sitting of the Grand Conseil at Bellinzona was enlivened on Friday (May 18th) by a somewhat turbulent exchange of views, accompanied by an unrehearsed display of boxing, between two deputies, Censi (Liberal) and Zeli (Socialist), caused through an attack on the Socialists by the former.

The accounts for 1922 of the Town of Zurich balance with a surplus of Frs. 6.5 million, which will be allotted to the amortisation fund of war loans.

The traffic returns of the Swiss Federal Railways continue to show steady improvement. The total receipts for the month of April amount to Frs. 29.6 million (27.6 million in 1922), and the grand total for the four months to end of April this year to 110 million, as against 100.5 million in the same period last year. Chiefly thanks to an appreciable reduction in the expenditure, these four months yield a surplus of 23.3 million francs, compared with a deficit of 4.7 million francs in 1922.

A considerable decrease in unemployment figures is recorded for the month of April, 35,522 totally unemployed being registered, as against 44,909 for the end of March.

A fifth train, carrying 60,000 kilos of foodstuffs, clothing, etc., to the value of Frs. 130,000, was despatched from Berne on May 5th for the benefit of the children of the famine-stricken districts of the Volga (Russia).

Following the example of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, the management of the Ritz-Carlton Hotels in New York and London have offered a further scholarship at the hotel school at Cour (Lausanne). The holders, in addition to a ten months' inclusive course at the hotel school, are entitled to four months' free station and practical training at one of the hotels belonging to these two concerns.

For taxing the "fonds de secours" of the chocolate company Tobler to the tune of Frs. 12,566 (about a quarter of its income) the cantonal and municipal treasuries of Berne have been informed by the company that the latter will in future withhold its financial support from the numerous social and charitable institutions to which it has hitherto liberally contributed.

The Comptoir Suisse de Lausanne is arranging for September 14th a special "Réunion des Suisses à l'Etranger" in order to give our compatriots, staying in Switzerland at that time, an opportunity of expressing their ideas and wishes, with a view of co-ordinating and concentrating Swiss economic propaganda abroad.

Owing to the abnormal rise in the price of sugar (70% since December last) Swiss confectioners have raised their prices for biscuits, gateaux, bonbons, etc., by about 10%.

The Basle section of the Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein is celebrating on June 2nd and 3rd the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

A number of Swiss trade societies (Soziale Käufer-Liga, Kaufmänn. Verein, etc.) have made joint representations to hotel proprietors to abolish gratuities in their establishments; a list of "no-tips" hotels is to be published shortly.

A unique way of acquiring and preserving knowledge was manifested by a law student, a Spaniard, who already had obtained an appointment in his country as a minor judge. By special permission he was allowed to visit the National Library in Berne, which lent certain books to him for his studies. Subsequently it was discovered that a number of pages were missing in these particular books, and on being questioned the would-be judge nonchalantly admitted the offence. He promptly paid for the damage after the affair had been placed in the hands of the judicial authorities.

Emil Schmied-Gürtler, who held several positions of trust in the canton, was condemned at Liestal to three years imprisonment for defalcations and embezzlement; the amount involved is stated to be Frs. 80,000. In December, 1921, he changed his residence to Germany, whence he was subsequently extradited.

In the course of a violent storm on the Lake of Lucerne a large goods barge, foundered between Vitznau and Gersau; two of the crew, Kittel and Brandmann, were drowned, and the others were saved by the regular steamer which happened to be in the vicinity.

Four children, between the ages of 3 and 8, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed a dwelling house and contents belonging to Alphons Blatti, of Mülhau (Aargau). The fire is said to have originated in an adjoining smithy.

Through the unexpected explosion of a charge, three workmen lost their lives in the ore mines of Gonzen, near Sargans.

Through the ignition of some fireworks in a grocer's shop in the Untergasse in Biel, two ladies, Mrs. Nicolet-Ortlieb and Miss Ortlieb, lost their lives, the upper part of the house being entirely consumed by the flames.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

### A "Richtige Baserner Mutz"

Even those of my readers who, like myself, know very little of the gallant art of Boxing, will admit that the following table, taken from the *Daily Mail* (May 12th) looks very impressive. We all feel proud always of the prowess exhibited by our wrestlers, and in Robert Roth we have the World's Heavy-weight Wrestling Champion.

No more laurels being to be gained in that sport, Robert Roth has been training for a year now for Boxing, and, according to the people who understand something about it, he justifies great hopes of reaching the top also in that sport.

The Swiss Colony will, no doubt, follow Mr. Roth's progress with the greatest interest and wish him the best of luck. I think, too, that many of us who, so far, have never taken the trouble of getting better acquainted with the manly sport of boxing, will take this opportunity of remedying this lack in our education. I, for one, am looking forward with keen interest to seeing Mr. Roth at work one of these days. So far my experience of serious boxing has been confined to watching such contests exhibited on the film. Even then, I remember, I got quite excited, especially once when the Carpentier-Beckett fight was shown.

Now that I hope to have the pleasure of not only watching first-class boxing, but at the same time backing a compatriot, I shall certainly not



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miss the opportunity, and I feel sure, when the day of the contest comes, I shall have the pleasure also of seeing the greater part of the London Swiss Colony assembled to watch "our man" win.

There has just arrived in London a young Swiss heavy-weight boxer, who, if he becomes what it is hoped to make him, will challenge Dempsey for the world's championship.

He is Robert Roth, of Berne, Switzerland, the heavy-weight wrestling champion of the world at the Olympic Games of 1920. He has been training for boxing for a year.

From the physical point of view the following table indicates how he outmeasures Dempsey:—

ROTH.		DEMPSEY.	
24 st. 10 lbs.	Age	26	
6 ft. 2½ ins.	Weight	13 st. 8 lbs.	
78 ins.	Height	6 ft. 1 in.	
52 ins.	Reach	74 ins.	
33 ins.	Chest (normal)	42 ins.	
	Waist	33 ins.	

### The Swiss Turf.

In a number of English papers, for instance *Newcastle Chronicle* and *North Mail*, *Bradford Daily Argus*, both of May 15th, we find the following:—

We have not been accustomed to think of horse-racing as one of the attractions of Switzerland. It is a fact, however, that of late years the sport has made great advance in that country. In June and July there are to be important race meetings at Lucerne, Zurich and other places. It may be doubted whether all the holiday-makers, who go to Switzerland for rest and change, will welcome this development. But it is certain that the sport will attract entirely new classes of visitors.

The news agency responsible for the comment in the last sentence of the above obviously thinks of Switzerland as a sort of compact pleasure ground, something like "The White City" or a Luna-Park, and thinks that these races will make it impossible for people resting and taking things quietly. Most of the races have been run year after year, and quite a number besides them, without anybody who did not wish to attend them being inconvenienced or even aware of them. I have been in this old London of ours for more years than I care to remember. For a number of years I have lived not very far from Epsom. Strange to relate, I have never seen the "Derby" and have never been seriously inconvenienced by it either, except for the 10s. or so which regularly "go west" on that day, because I then have my "annual flutter."

### The Weather.

I bet—you see now how writing of Sport affects one's expressions even—I bet, you did not think (please, don't insult our readers; they do think sometimes, and, besides, we won't have any betting in our paper until betting has been sanctioned by forthcoming legislation.—Ed.) All right, Mr. Editor. Sorry! I now proceed, in a chastened mood, as follows: It seems hardly possible to me that any of my readers wished me to write about the Weather, seeing that for a fortnight or so they have read hardly anything else in their daily papers. But, you see, I cannot very well let you have the following cutting from the *Daily Telegraph* (May 11th) without some preparation. The shock would be too great. You who, in spite of Whitsun, shiver and try to look pleasant in your heaviest

coat, you who celebrate our Spring by reading South Sea novels in order to get some "local and appropriate colour," you would have been startled too much by the initial sentence of this cutting. So here goes:—

The summer season in Switzerland has begun, and the Southern Railway, in conjunction with the French and Swiss railways, has arranged for an express train to run daily from Calais to Basle by the direct route via Laon on and from Tuesday next. This train, which will be composed of first and second class corridor carriages, with dining and sleeping cars of the "blue train" type, will run in connection with the 2.40 p.m. service from Victoria. As the accommodation is limited, seats should be booked in advance at the Continental Inquiry Office, Victoria. The night express from Boulogne to Switzerland, via Laon, will run in connection with the 9 p.m. Dover boat-train from Victoria every Friday throughout the summer, beginning on May 18th.

Lest you should feel envious of our folk at home, picturing them, perhaps, basking in welcome sunshine, and wishing that you could be over there too, I give you this other tit-bit, culled from *The Times*, six days later, on the 17th inst.:—

During the last two days frost has caused much damage to the crops in Switzerland, especially in the Canton Vaud vineyards. Snow has fallen on the mountains. A depth of 5 inches has been registered at Davos, where it was still snowing yesterday.

An avalanche, which has destroyed a mill and part of a forest, has fallen above Le Bouveret, Canton Valais. No avalanche has been recorded in that place for one hundred years at least.

#### More Sport.

I wish my readers to remember that these "Notes and Gleanings" are being perpetrated during the Whitsun holidays. Sporting news is, therefore, quite fashionable:—

Mr. Henry Ford is coming to stay at Muri, near Bern, where he has rented a villa. It is reported that he proposes to establish a new motor-car factory in Switzerland.—"Exchange Telegraph."

Do you see the joke?

#### Economic Fusion between Liechtenstein & Switzerland.

*Observer* (May 13th):—The little Principality of Liechtenstein enjoys an idyllic existence. This tiny territory, with its capital of Vaduz and its 11,000 inhabitants, situated between Switzerland on its Western frontier, and the little Austrian province of Vorarlberg in the East, has now entered into a customs union with the Swiss Republic. Despite the strong antipathy of the then population against the Hapsburgs, Liechtenstein, prior to the war, was united with the Austrian monarchy by union of customs, post, and currency. During the war the little Principality, with its "armed power" of twelve field-watchmen, remained neutral. In 1920 the Principality amalgamated postal administration with that of Switzerland, the post-offices in Liechtenstein differing from the Swiss post-offices only so far that they sell stamps with the portrait of the Prince. The Austrian krone was long ago replaced by the Swiss franc, so that the economic fusion of Liechtenstein into Switzerland is now complete.

#### Major Davel.

In the Educational Supplement of *The Times* of May 12th we find an illustration, showing the parade at Cully in celebration of the bicentenary of the death of Major Davel. In 1723, with a small body of men, he set out for Lausanne to free the Canton de Vaud from Bernese domination. He failed, however, to overthrow the authorities there. Thus *The Times*, who entitles the picture "Honouring a Swiss Patriot."

The *Daily Mirror* (May 14th), on the other hand, has the following effusion, which, by its absurdity alone, will make you smile, while, at the same time, wonder how people possessing such wonderful knowledge are allowed to dish up such rubbish:—

Someone has asked me who was that Major Davel to whom the man who shot Vorovsky compared himself. He was a soldier who fought under Marlborough and Prince Eugene, and he was executed, just two hundred years ago, for getting up an insurrection against the Bernese authorities in the Canton of Vaud. His name is remembered chiefly because one of the steamers on the Lake of Geneva has been called after him.

#### "The Lausanne Horror."

Under this heading the *Daily Chronicle* (May 12th) prints the following notes which, to my mind, for fairness and, at the same time, political acumen leave nothing to be desired:—

Nothing but horror will be felt by all civilised people at the vile act of assassination at Lausanne. We are glad to see that the Fascist society in Switzerland has repudiated responsibility for the crime, though it has indulged freely enough in menace. The Swiss Government, as might be expected, expresses its horror, but does not quite adequately meet the charge of not giving adequate protection. It is true that Mr. Vorovsky and his colleagues were uninvited guests at the renewed conference, and to that extent it is a technical justification for the Swiss Government's failure if there has been failure. But only technical. The event is a sad stain upon the great international Conference that is taking place upon Swiss soil.

Dislike of Bolshevism may be universal, but the assassin always and everywhere is abhorred. Of late years there have been too many of these assassinations of prominent men who may be described roughly as belonging to the Left. Since the murder of Jaurès in 1914 there has been a series of such assassinations, of which that of Herr Rathenau was typical and that of Mr. Vorovsky now at Lausanne is the latest. They are extreme expressions of a spirit of intolerance that has come throughout Europe to be labelled Fascist, but from which the Fascism of Signor Mussolini could, no doubt, easily dissociate itself. Newton's law that "to every action there is an equal and corresponding reaction" is as true of politics as of physical science.

Such excesses lead inevitably to reprisal. They lower the morality of an already demoralised world still further, and those who to-day tremble for the future of Western civilisation are further confirmed in their fears.

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#### Progress in the Cinema Industry.

*Cinema* (May 10th):—A new invention, which promises to be of great utility in the cinema theatre, is the "Cine-Pupitre" of Mr. Delacomme, which has recently been demonstrated in Switzerland.

On the "Cine-Pupitre," or cinema desk, is a luminous rectangle, on which appears before the eyes of the conductor, who has his back to the screen, the music appropriate for the particular scene then being played. By this means perfect synchronism between the action of the film and the music is maintained.

This new apparatus should also be of great use in showing scholastic films. The text applicable to each picture appears in the luminous rectangle, and can be read out by the person commenting upon the film.

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#### Swiss Sports.

These Sports being held on "Kyburg's" birthday—presents will be gratefully received, even if somewhat belated—I do hope my readers will accept my "tip" that to-day, Saturday, 26th May, there is nothing better to do for any of us than to go to *Herne Hill*! May the best girl, the best man, and the best team win! And may King Sol honour us with his august and warm presence!

#### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The report of the Société pour l'Industrie Chimique in Basle points out that the year 1922 opened under no very favourable auspices. During the course of the year, however, a somewhat better demand became evident for most of the Company's products. The greatest difficulties have been met in finding markets, since those upon which the industry normally relied are for one reason or another at present closed. The English licensing restrictions on the import of dyestuffs have been very strictly enforced, and the United States have imposed high tariffs, which are even more detrimental to importing interests than the former system of import licenses. In view of these factors the acquisition of an English factory by the Swiss company, which dates from some time back, has come to be of particular importance. The other members of the Basle chemical group also participate in the English works. In pursuance of a similar policy in the United States, the group have acquired a dyeworks in Cincinnati, which has, however, worked at a loss in 1922. In this case it is proposed to effect a complete financial reorganisation and to reconstruct the works, so as to conform better to local requirements, after which it is hoped that there also manufacture may be carried on with success. The works in France at St. Fons, near Lyons, have, on the other hand, developed favourably during the year.

Considerable interest is felt in banking and financial circles in Switzerland in the appointment of Mr. Charles Schnyder-de Wartensee as financial adviser to the National Bank of Austria. Mr. Schnyder will resign his position in the Swiss National Bank, and is likely to take up his new duties in Vienna at no very distant date.

The cement industry is not generally recognised as one of Switzerland's important branches of manufacture, but as an exporting industry it has of late years come into some prominence. Owing to the slackness of the building trade in Switzerland herself, the Swiss cement works, which number about sixteen, have been turning their attention more and more to export. In 1922 the exports amounted to 734,000 tons and reached a value of Frs. 6,200,000. France, which needs a great deal of cement for reconstruction purposes and for the creation of new water power stations, has been the principal customer, but owing to the possibility of cheap and easy transport by water from Switzerland, Holland has also been a good market, taking in 1922 53,834 tons, valued at Frs. 2,300,000.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.		May 15	May 22	
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	80.15%	79.50%	
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	...	102.40%	102.55%	
Federal Railways A-K 3½%	...	83.65%	83.65%	
Canton Basle Stadt 5½% 1921	...	104.50%	104.50%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	...	74.00%	74.25%	
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	...	100.25%	99.00%	
SHARES.		Nom.	May 15	May 22
		Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	648	647
Crédit Suisse	...	500	680	680
Union de Banques Suisses...	...	500	542	545
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3345	3200	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2300	2117	
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1042	1045
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	682	680
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	695	690
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	500	356	350
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond.Milk Co.	...	200	177	176
Choc. Suisses Peter-Casey-Kohler	...	100	112	113
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	...	500	473	495

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#### EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Sept cent cinquante millions.** Sept cent cinquante millions de francs, trois quarts de milliards, voilà la somme que le peuple suisse dépense annuellement pour l'alcool! Ce chiffre repose sur une statistique établie par le secrétariat des paysans pour l'année 1919. Rien ne permet de supposer qu'il ait diminué depuis cette date. Bien au contraire tout fait craindre qu'il n'ait encore augmenté; du moins pour les boissons les plus dangereuses, les alcools distillés.

Si l'on veut se rendre compte de ce que représente ce chiffre, il faut faire quelques comparaisons.

La mobilisation suisse, qui a gardé nos frontières durant la guerre, a coûté pendant quatre ans et demi, environ un milliard trois cents millions. En une seule année le peuple suisse boit plus de la moitié de la somme qui lui a servi pendant près de cinq ans à éloigner de notre territoire les malheurs de la guerre.

Les dépenses de la Suisse pour l'instruction publique se chiffrent annuellement par 200 millions environ. Le peuple suisse consacre donc à sa boisson quatre fois plus d'argent qu'à l'éducation de ses enfants. Et avec cela il se croit un peuple très éclairé et sourit agréablement quand on lui dit qu'il est à l'avant-garde du progrès!

Mais voici qui est plus frappant encore. Pendant la même année 1919 le secrétariat des paysans a fait la statistique de ce que la population dépense pour le lait et pour le pain, c'est-à-dire pour les aliments les plus sains et les plus nécessaires spécialement au développement des enfants.

La consommation du lait représente environ 410 millions. Celle du pain environ 350 millions. Total 760 millions. Le peuple suisse dépense donc autant pour l'alcool que pour le lait et le pain additionnés.

Le rouge de la honte ne lui monte-t-il pas au visage en présence d'une semblable constatation? Et avec cela, au moment où tant d'hommes compromettent leur santé et celle de leurs enfants en abusant de l'alcool, ne sait-on pas que bien des enfants ne peuvent pas, chaque jour, obtenir une quantité suffisante de lait? Une économie de 10% seulement, de 75 millions sur l'alcool, consacrée à un complément d'alimentation en lait, sauverait chaque année des milliers de vies humaines et fournirait un préservatif efficace contre une des plaies qui minent notre population, la tuberculose.

Ces chiffres ne sont pas nouveaux. Ils ont déjà été publiés souvent. Et cependant une foule de personnes, et même de personnes instruites, les ignorent, comme nous avons pu nous en apercevoir bien des fois. Ils devraient être dits et répétés sans cesse, affichés dans nos rues, dans nos écoles, dans tous les lieux publics... à commencer par les cafés.

Ils devront être présents à l'esprit de tous les électeurs suisses le 3 juin prochain. La révision projetée, qui n'a rien d'un régime prohibitionniste, constitue un essai, modeste mais réel, d'endiguer le flot d'alcool qui se déverse sur notre pays en contrôlant et en imposant les boissons distillées. Si cette révision était rejetée, le contrôle, la limitation et l'imposition de l'alcool deviendraient impossibles. Le fléau se déchaînerait sans aucune entrave sur notre population et le mal qui existe déjà aujourd'hui empirerait rapidement et deviendrait une véritable calamité nationale!

Dans ses conditions il serait incompréhensible qu'un seul citoyen conscient de ses responsabilités vis-à-vis de son pays, vis-à-vis des générations nouvelles, ait le triste courage de repousser la réforme proposée. L'entraîne que tous les partis, toutes les assemblées populaires, sous la conduite de chefs éclairés, mettent à voter oui montre que notre peuple commence à sentir le danger qui le menace et va se lever comme un seul homme pour conjurer le péril. (*Journal de Genève.*)

**"Combats de reines."**—Le Valais veut-il rivaliser avec le Midi et l'Espagne. Nous avons déjà parlé des "combats de reines," ces singuliers tournois qui s'engagent entre vaches de la petite race d'Hérens lors de la montée à l'alpage. Ces luttes sont suivies avec passion et l'honneur d'être propriétaire d'une reine est fort recherché.

Or, voici qu'un comité s'est constitué pour organiser un "match cantonal de luttes de reines." Je transcris le communiqué adressé aux journaux valaisans: "Les luttes de reines ne sont-elles pas l'image de la lutte incessante de la vie? Elles prêtent un intérêt pittoresque pour les étrangers. C'est une attraction de plus qui les engage à venir visiter nos montagnes. Maintenons donc notre race d'Hérens avec ses reines à cornes, car c'est, pour nos concitoyens de la montagne, un stimulant et une raison de plus pour les attacher patriotiquement au sol natal, même dans les durs moments de crise," conclut le comité enthousiaste.

Avis aux C. F. F. toujours soucieux d'augmenter le trafic. Verrons-nous bientôt des trains spéciaux arriver des quatre points cardinaux avec des voyageurs avides d'émotion? Verrons-nous le pari mutuel et les "bookmakers"? Il y a de quoi faire tressaillir d'aise l'âme des anciens joueurs du casino de Saxon, auxquels la révision fédérale de 1874 porta un coup si fatal. Ah! Nîmes, Tarascon et toutes les Espagnes par-dessus le marché n'ont qu'à se bien tenir.

(Feuille d'Avis des Montagnes.)