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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Chief of the Federal Political Department, M. Motta, has fixed this year's Conference with the Swiss Diplomatic Representatives abroad for August 26th and 27th.

The international questions relating to rights of domicile, consular affairs, etc., will be discussed on the first day, also the question of the International Rhine Navigation. On the second day the customary excursion of the Members of the Federal Council with the Swiss Diplomats from abroad will take place, probably to the Schwarzsee.

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The Geneva Conference of last week for aiding Russia to fight the ravaging famine and disease was presided over by M. Gustave Ador.

Represented at the Conference were over 20 Governments and Red Cross Societies, the League of Nations, the International Labour Bureau, the International Credit Organisation, the American Relief Administration, the International "Save the Children" Union and the All Russia Relief Committee.

In urging immediate action, M. Ador emphasized that the Red Cross, which owes its influence, prestige and high moral authority to its lofty ideals of charity and mutual help to suffering humanity, to its neutrality and political impartiality, has not to search for the reasons of the terrible Russian disaster. The Red Cross considers it its duty to offer its immediate co-operation to all Governments and philanthropic institutions in the endeavour to bring help quickly to the Russian victims.

Adopting the motion of Dr. Depage, the representative of the Belgian Red Cross, it was decided to give the speeches made by M. Ador and Sir E. Hill at once in print and to distribute these speeches to all Governments.

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The French Ministerial Council has granted a relief credit in favour of the French citizens residing in Switzerland.

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*Légion d'Honneur.*—The following Swiss citizens have been honoured:—ADRIEN PALAZ, civil engineer, Chevalier since 1911, is promoted Officer of the Légion for his services in the interests of France. As Chevaliers of the Légion have been elected:—EUGENE LOUIS DUMONT, civil engineer, for services rendered to French science; FRIEDERICH JENNY, publicist, for his activity in furthering French-Swiss economic relations; and HANS OTTO RYFF, delegate to the East African Trading Company, for his work which has contributed in a large measure to the development of the French Colonies and French expansion in Africa.

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The Swiss Federal Railways employed by the end of

July, 1921, 38,374 officials, employees and workmen, against 40,228 in the same month of the preceding year.

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Lieutenant Pillichody, whose lecture in London, arranged in the early part of this year by "The Swiss Observer," will still be in the memory of our readers, recently successfully carried out a grand record flight above the majestic giants of the Bernese Oberland.

Piloting a "Junker" carrying five passengers, Lieut. Pillichody flew over the Stockhorn, Niesen, Blümlisalp, encircling the Bietschhörner, Aletschhorn, Vieschhörner, and passing along the South and the North side of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, returned over Grindelwald to Thun. In three-quarters of an hour the machine had risen to an altitude of 15,000 feet, safely landing again one hour and a half later at the starting point. Swiss aviation is indeed making progress!

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*The Toll of the Mountains.*—The brothers Benjamin and Philippe Verney, from Lausanne, and Jules Lüthi (St. Gall), a bank clerk in Lausanne, were ascending the Dent du Midi, when a boulder, measuring 12 cubic metres, started rolling and caught Philippe Verney and J. Lüthi. The brother of the former escaped unharmed and succeeded in extricating his brother Philippe after two hours' exertion with a smashed leg, which had to be amputated. The unfortunate Lüthi was instantly crushed beneath the rock, which it will be necessary to blast with dynamite before the body can be recovered.

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*"Pro Jura."*—A meeting of representatives of the various Bureaux de Renseignement Jurassien, and other interested parties, have decided to develop an intensive propaganda, adopting for that purpose as official organ the journal "Bielersee und Juraböden," which will in future appear under the title "Der Schweizer Jura und seine Seen"—Le Jura Suisse et ses lacs—for the purpose of guarding and fostering the interests of Biel, Solothurn, Olten, St. Imier, Neuveville, Neuchâtel, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Le Locle and Yverdon.

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## SWISS SPORT.

*Swiss Motor Cycle Six Days Trials, Aug. 2nd/7th, 1921.*—Switzerland has gained for the second time the race for the INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP, the first contest having been secured last year at Grenoble, when the races were run in France.

Should the Swiss Motor Cyclists be able to repeat victory next year, the trophy will definitely pass into possession of L'Union Motocycliste Suisse, under whose auspices this summer's races were conducted to the entire satisfaction of the International competitors.

The distance to be covered during the six days was 1,800 kilometres. Starting from Geneva, the journey led to La Chaux-de-Fonds—Moutier—Soleure—Basle—Aarau—Winterthur—Laufen—Weinfelden—St. Gallen—Zurich—Lint-

thal—Altdorf—Andermatt—St. Gotthard Hospiz—Airoio—Bellinzona—Lugano—Gotthard—Furka—Gletsch—Grimsel—Meiringen—Interlaken—Bern—Fribourg—Jaunpass—Col de Pillon—Col des Mosses—Bulle—Col de Soudoup—Montreux—Ouchy—Nyon—Geneva.

A route, severely testing men and machines, it speaks volumes for the skill and endurance of the riders that the distance was accomplished without any serious mishaps.

Not only has the Swiss team, composed of A. Rothenbach and Edouard Gex, both riding "Motosacoche," and J. Morand, on "Condor," proved their mettle against 51 international starters, their victory is further greatly enhanced by the fact that the Swiss motorcycle industry has incidentally through them also scored a great triumph, the Genevese "Motosacoche" and the Neuchâtelois "Condor" obtaining respectively first and second position in the general classification against such competitive machines as A.J.S., Brough, Douglas, G.N., Hobart, Indian, J.S., New Imperial, Norton, Raleigh, Salmson, Scott, Sunbeam, Triumph, Viratelle.

Result of the International Challenge Cup: 1st.: Swiss Team: Rothenbach, Gex (Motosacoche), Morand (Condor), 2970 points; 2nd.: English Team: Williams (A.J.S.), Gibson (Raleigh), Newman (Douglas), 2819 points.

Rothenbach secures the prize of the Swiss Federal Council: gold chronometer; Morand the Grand Prix of the Automobile Club Suisse; Honel (G.N.) the prize of M. Millerand, President of the French Republic: Sèvres Vase; Williams (A.J.S.) the prize of the Office Suisse du Tourisme: Chronometer.

\* \* \*

Our Swiss crack shots who have attended last week the International Matches at Lyons have returned to Switzerland somewhat sore—not because they were not the absolute victors, but because they considered that the Americans did not meet them in fair battle, adopting in some of the competitions various kinds of questionable expedients, such as diopters and padded cushions while shooting in lying position.

Up till now these sort of tricks have never been permitted at international matches, and our Swiss representatives disdaining to resort to the same practices as did the Americans, in consequence suffered unfair competition. This will be the subject of an official inquiry, according to latest reports.

The classification of the national groups of shots gives the following results:—

- 1st.: Italy, 2474 points.
- 2nd.: Switzerland, 2467 points.
- 3rd.: France.
- 4th and last, America with only 2313 points.

The match for pistols (50 shots at a distance of 50 metres with a 50 cm. target) was contested by America, France, Italy and Switzerland, our country being represented by Widmer (St. Gall), Brunner (Brugg), Giambomini (Bellinzona), Zulauf (Altstätten) and Häny (Solothurn).

Häny secured the world's championship with 517 points, our other compatriots following closely with between 495 and 480 points each respectively, thereby obtaining a team result which has not been attained for many years past.

The International Challenge Cup (presented by the Argentine Ministry of War), which has been in Swiss possession for 17 consecutive years, will now, temporarily, find a resting place in America—until, let's hope, we lift it again. In the meantime its place in the Schützenstube im Bürgerhaus zu Bern will be occupied by the second

prize of honour which the Swiss shots brought back with them from Lyons, a Bronze Statue offered by the Government of Spain.

At the rifle match meeting at Zurich, which lasted for eleven days, the Swiss world's champion, Stäheli, has beaten the existing record of 49 bull's eyes in 50 shots, by scoring *fifty out of a possible fifty*. So Switzerland can still pride herself with possessing "some" shots!

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At the International Gymnastic Meeting in Marseilles the Swiss team was beaten into second place by the "Olympique," Marseilles.

In the 5 kilometres race Wilhelm Tell secured 3rd place, whilst the Swiss champion Imbach scored another remarkable success in winning the 400 metres relay race without being relieved; the 100 metres he won in 11 1-5 secs. The "Olympic" relay race was won by Switzerland, Italy being second, France third.

\* \* \*

The International Swimming Competition across the Lake of Geneva, from St. Gingolph to Vevey, has produced the following result:—1st.: Demiéville, the Genevese champion, 2 hrs. 42 mins.; 2nd.: Thommey, Lausanne, 2 hrs. 47 mins.; 3rd.: Vescovini, Geneva, 3 hrs. 7 mins.

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The Football Club "Blue Stars," Zurich, who was invited to a match by the Football Club Singen (Baden) on the inauguration of their new grounds, beat the home team by 5 goals to 2.

## NOTES & GLEANINGS.

Our readers will doubtless appreciate the just reproach contained in the following article of the "Journal de Genève" No. 209, addressed to a French law officer who finds it compatible with his conception of administering justice, and not beneath his dignity, to apply the stigmatizing words "demi-boche" to a Swiss citizen who had the misfortune to come under his jurisdiction.—*Ed.*

### DEMI-BOCHES ?

"Près de trois à quatre mille de nos compatriotes habitent l'Algérie. A part quelques personnes, on se plaint, en général, à louer la manière dont ils travaillent et la collaboration qu'ils prêtent ainsi à l'oeuvre civilisatrice de la France.

Certaines préventions, cependant, ne désarment pas et nous en avons un écho qui mérite de retenir l'attention de M. le garde des sceaux de la République française.

Au cours d'un récent procès—un compte rendu de la "Dépêche algérienne" en témoigne—le procureur général d'Alger s'est permis une généralisation fâcheuse. Dans son réquisitoire contre un criminel, que nous ne songeons nullement à défendre, ce représentant de la justice française s'est permis de dire: "Un demi-boche ne pourra pas retourner dans son pays et dire là-bas: "J'ai tué un Français et l'on m'a absous."

M. le procureur général, qui doit être au courant de la jurisprudence de son pays, ne peut ignorer que le terme de boche lancé à la figure de quelqu'un qui n'est pas Allemand—les Allemands eux-mêmes, dit-on, ne l'entendent pas prononcer avec plaisir—est considéré comme injurieux. Dans le cas particulier, que l'on puisse ou non discuter de l'étymologie de l'épithète, le représentant de la justice a eu pour but évident de jeter une note nouvelle d'infamie sur un citoyen suisse. Son crime est indépendant de cette appréciation et c'est contre cette appréciation que nous protestons.

Nous savons que certains Français n'hésitent pas à qualifier de boches ou de demi-boches les Alsaciens et les Suisses allemands. C'est regrettable, mais cela demeure souvent dans les bornes d'une plaisanterie plus ou moins spirituelle—plutôt moins que plus. Mais qu'un magistrat dans l'exercice de ses fonctions se laisse aller à tenir des propos semblables cela ne fait honneur ni à son tact ni à la France, qui revendiquait autrefois le privilège de la courtoisie."