

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1922)

**Heft:** 50

**Rubrik:** Subscription rates

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# The Swiss Observer

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

*Published weekly at*  
21, GARLICK HILL, E.C. 4.

Telephone : CITY 4603.

No. 50

LONDON, MAY 20, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

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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.

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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-