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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Federal Council has fixed the Swiss Government's financial participation in the Swiss Marconi Company at 400,000 francs.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has refused permission to M. Rakowsky, one of the Russian delegates at the Genoa Conference, to come to Zurich for the purpose of discussing business with Swiss industrials.

In answer to a renewed request the Federal Council now intimates that no objection would be raised to a visit of M. Krassin, who would be permitted to stay at Zurich for—*one day*.

(Compared with the facilities which M. Krassin enjoyed in this country as the head of the Russian Trade Delegation, the above "concession" will probably appear out of all proportion to him, and the benefit which Swiss industry is likely to derive from one day's interview with M. Krassin will surely also be infinitesimal. Yet, unemployment is as rampant as ever in Switzerland. How incompatible politics and business seem to be!)

\* \* \*

To aid export of certain Swiss products, the Swiss Federal Railways have reduced their freight tariffs in some cases by as much as 35 per cent.

The commodities which will be particularly favoured by these reductions, if consisting of consignments of five and ten tons, are: aluminium, sterilized milk, wood and wood shavings, and asphalt.

\* \* \*

The International Union of Astronomy has terminated its 1922 Congress at the Academy of Science in Rome, fixing the next meeting for 1925 at the Cambridge University.

Professor Raoul Gautier, Director of the Geneva Observatory, was the delegate of the Swiss Geodetical Society, at the same time representing the Association for Geodesy of the Neutral States in his capacity as President of that Association.

M. Paul Dietisheim, watch manufacturer, of La Chaux-de-Fonds, was appointed by the Swiss Federal Council to watch the proceedings of the Congress as delegate of the Swiss Horological Chamber, the work of the conference offering particular interest for the chronometer industry. The members of the Congress were invited to pay a visit to the scientific institutes of Florence; they were further received by the Pope before they left Rome, and some of

the congressists were permitted to visit the Observatory of the Vatican, a privilege which has been accorded on rare occasions only.

\* \* \*

The alpine guide Peter Steier from Reams (Gräubünden) has been chosen from 400 applicants for the post of guardian of the Saentis Observatory.

\* \* \*

Tests made at the Thermal Springs of Ragaz have led to the discovery of mercury and uranium deposits of considerable magnitude, not far from Vättis (Graubünden). As is known, radium is extracted from uranium.

\* \* \*

It has required a whole fortnight's work of 30 men before the Niesen mountain railway could resume its summer service this year, and the opening of the Nieneskulm-Hotel could only be accomplished after the tremendous deposits of snow, reaching in some places a height of 15 metres, had been cleared away and the railway track laid bare.

\* \* \*

At a meeting of the Zurich Bank Employees Association, which was attended by over 800 of its members, a resolution was passed to protest against the intended move of the Banking Syndicate to reduce salaries from the 1st of August next, to shorten duration of holidays, and to increase additional unpaid overtime working hours.

\* \* \*

Piloted by Lieutenant Henri Pillichody (known to our readers from his lecture given in London under the auspices of *The Swiss Observer*), the first aeroplane in the Geneva-Nürnberg air service arrived at Nürnberg at noon on June 1st, carrying one passenger.

The same aeroplane departed again at 2.30 p.m. from that city, having taken on board four passengers and the German mails. Making a stop of half-an-hour's duration at Dübendorf, it safely descended at Geneva at 7 p.m. the same day.

The following time-table has been fixed for this first International Airway Service established in Switzerland:—

Geneva, dep. 8 a.m.

Berlin, dep. 8 a.m.

Dübendorf, dep. 10.15 a.m.

Nürnberg, dep. 12.30 p.m.

Nürnberg, arr. 12.30 p.m.

Dübendorf, arr. 3.15 p.m.

Berlin, arr. 5 p.m.

Geneva, arr. 5 p.m.

It is hoped to extend the service from Geneva in a southerly direction to Lyons, Marseilles and beyond in the near future.

The charges are fixed at 110 francs (Swiss) for the journey from Geneva to Zurich (Dübendorf) or vice versa. Zurich-Nürnberg 125 francs, Nürnberg-Zurich 85 francs, the difference in the fare for the return journey being due to exchange variations. \* \* \*

A family named Fehr, from Zurich, were enjoying a few days' stay with relatives in the country at Hönegg. The children entered a shed, where they discovered a bottle from which the 3-year-old sister innocently gave a drink

to her little baby brother, aged 18 months. A few hours later the poor little mite died of poisoning, the bottle having contained benzol.

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(Extracts from *Swiss Papers*.)

A Genève un Russe nommé Koukinsky se livrait au commerce des reptiles, dont il fournissait les laboratoires des universités de Lausanne, Fribourg, Neuchâtel et Genève. Il avait dans son logis plus de 200 vipères, couleuvres, etc.

Or, le jour de l'Ascension, K. étant absent, six reptiles s'échappèrent et pénétrèrent dans l'appartement voisin, habité par Mme. Guenin, qui, en entrant à son domicile, se trouva, avec l'effarement que l'on comprend, en présence de deux vipères et d'une couleuvre buvant, dans une jatte, le lait du chat de la maison. La gendarmerie, accourue aux cris de Mme. Guenin, réussit à tuer les dangereux visiteurs et découvrit peu après les trois autres fugitifs. On juge de ce qui aurait pu se passer si les 200 pensionnaires de ce peu banal industriel s'étaient répandus dans le quartier.

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Payerne.—Le bataillon de sapeurs I, sous les ordres du major Waeber, vient de terminer son cours de répétition. Le lendemain de sa mobilisation il construisait une passerelle sur la Broye au lieu dit: le pont des aveugles et recevait la visite du chef de corps et de deux officiers belges.

Pendant ces quinze jours la troupe a fait des exercices de marche et nous laisse en souvenir une superbe passerelle en bois, de 38 m. de long et de 2 m. de large qui se trouve au Châtelard, juste en face de la briqueterie. Elle rendra de grands services aux promeneurs et aux pêcheurs. Le bataillon en a fait la remise officielle à la Municipalité vendredi matin. Les Payernois garderont un bon souvenir de cette belle troupe.

### SWISS CREWS FOR HENLEY.

Through the courtesy of our Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, we have just received information that the rowing section of the "Grasshopper Club, Zurich" have entered an "eight" to compete in the Grand Challenge Cup, and a "four" for competing in the Stewards' Challenge Cup at the Henley Regatta, which takes place from July 5th to July 8th next.

For a long number of years it has been the sincere ambition of the "Grasshopper Club" (rowing section) to compete at Henley, but circumstances have always prevented this aspiration from being realised until this year.

It will be the first time that Switzerland is represented at Henley, and we trust the fact that Dr. Hans Walter will be one of the members of the crews (he acted as stroke with the victorious "four" at the Olympic Games in 1920 at Antwerp) augurs well for the success of the Swiss crews at Henley.

The crew of the Swiss "eight" for the Grand Challenge Cup will be composed of the following:—

F. Lecomte, C. Muhr, A. Tiedemann, E. Albrecht, Benno Bauer, M. Syz, Dr. R. Bosshard, Dr. Hans Walter; while for the Stewards' Challenge Cup—

Dr. R. Bosshard, M. Syz, Benno Bauer, Dr. Hans Walter will take to the water.

It is anticipated the gentlemen named will reach England in company with the President of the rowing section of the "Grasshopper Club," Mr. Fritz Waltisbühl, about June 26th or 27th next, the members of the crews taking up their quarters at the Catherine Wheel Hotel, Henley.

We hope the members of the Swiss Colony will realise that these athletes from our mother country are undertaking

a task which will demand supreme efforts, since all competing countries delegate only the cream of their talent and champions to Henley, where the contests are by tradition most keen and strenuous.

If, therefore, the Swiss Colony can inspire our competing compatriots to give of their best, we hope the members of our Colony will turn up in strong force at Henley to give the sporting representatives of Switzerland that moral confidence and courage which it is possible to infuse and which, admittedly, plays no mean part in aiding the endeavours of our men to see the standard of the "White Cross" hoisted.

We confidently trust our appeal will be gallantly responded to, and we couple that hope with wishes of best luck and success for our compatriots at Henley!

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We further learn from another source that for this year's International A.A.A. Championships, which are to be held at Stamford Bridge from July 30th to August 4th, several athletes from home have sent in their entries. As soon as we are in possession of further details, we shall not fail to communicate full information to our readers.

### City Councillor G. T. DE LORIEL, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Most of our compatriots who temporarily or permanently forsake their mother country for the British Isles, usually succumb to the magnetic power of the great City of London.

But no rule without exception—English provincial towns also attract Swiss, and if prospects of rise to fortune, prominence and position are proportionately remoter there, the greater is the merit of those who do aspire and attain to a successful career in centres where the possibilities are more restricted.

Consequently, Mr. G. de Lorient may indeed be proud of his record, which incidentally goes to prove that the high esteem and full confidence which the community of Newcastle-on-Tyne reposed in him were not misplaced.

Born in 1865 at Crassier (Canton de Vaud) as the son of Mons. P. de Lorient-Le Fort, the world-renowned Genevese geologist and zoologist, Mr. G. de Lorient was educated at Geneva and at Lyons (France), at which latter city he obtained his diploma as Civil Engineer at the Ecole Centrale Lyonnaise.

He came to Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1886, entered the coal export trade and established the firm of G. de Lorient & Co. in 1900, which succeeded in building up an extensive coal exporting business, with wide connections in France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Egypt, etc. etc.

Having acquired British citizenship, our compatriot was elected member of the Newcastle City Council in 1908, was appointed Sheriff of the City in 1912, and subsequently Justice of the Peace.

Apart from holding these municipal offices, Mr. de Lorient was also for ten years Chairman of the Newcastle Trade and Commerce Corporation.

His wide knowledge and experience, coupled with a genial personality, earned him the full appreciation of his colleagues in office, genuine popularity amongst his Newcastle co-citizens, and highest esteem from his wide circle of business friends.

Mr. de Lorient will take with him into his partial retirement on his property near Geneva memories which will doubtless afford him well merited pleasure and comfort, while Switzerland will welcome the return of one of her sons who has represented her nobly in this hospitable country here, whose people are not slow to recognise and value good service rendered in the public interest.