

**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:** - (1923)

**Heft:** 122

**Rubrik:** Notes and gleanings

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# The Swiss Observer

Telephone: CITY 4603.

Published every Friday at 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C. 4.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

No. 122

LONDON, OCTOBER 6, 1923.

PRICE 3d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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AND COLONIES	{ 6 " (26 " " )	66
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## HOME NEWS

During a debate in the National Council it was freely admitted that the present number of recruits is considerably below the constitutional contingent; the forced demands of economy in the military budget had brought about a reduction which was no less resented by the yearly recruits so put back than it constituted a national danger. In spite of protests from the Socialists, Federal President Scheurer intimated that in the coming year the quota would be increased.

From an interpellation in the States Council it would appear that Switzerland will officially take part in the International Exhibition, to be held in 1925 at Paris.

An unexpected decision was recorded last Sunday by the electorate of Thoune, who were asked to vote whether the town council should be empowered to grant a subsidy towards the cost of creating a direct connection between the new railway station and the landing stages of the lake navigation company. As the proposal has been negatived, the navigation company threatens to withdraw the service altogether on the lake of Thoune.

The date of the next Basle Fair (the eighth) has been definitely fixed for May 17th to May 27th. The work of rebuilding will be started immediately. The town council of Zürich have given their architect, Mr. Herter, whose plans had already previously been accepted, special leave of absence, so as to enable him to devote the whole of his time to the building details. A special building for the administration is to be erected in addition to the destroyed halls; the new conference room, with galleries to hold about 1400 people, will probably not be finished in time for next year's gatherings.

Two accidents to cavalry subalterns, which do not seem to testify to exceptional horsemanship, happened in the neighbourhood of Frauenfeld. In both instances the riders lost control of their mount; one of them, Schmid, was thrown from his horse, a double fracture of the skull being the outcome, whilst the other one, Robert Steinemann, during the fall got caught in the stirrup, was dragged along for a few hundred metres and picked up dead.

Three Basle councillors, Messrs. Calini, Frey and Grieder (the latter two representing Baseland) recently undertook an air trip to London on the invitation of the Handley-Page company. The following description appears in the *National-Zeitung* from the pen of Regierungsrat Calini:

"Wir stiegen," bemerkte er, "bei schönem Wetter in Basel auf, und als wir das Häusermeer von Paris vor uns liegen sahen, da hatte bereits die schlechte Witterung gesiegt. Trübe bot sich das Bild der französischen Hauptstadt. Es war kein absolutes Vergnügen, bei diesem starken Wind, gegen den ständig angekämpft werden musste, das leichte Fallen und Sinken des Apparates mitzumachen; und doch — ich würde sofort wieder fahren, wenn ich Zeit und Gelegenheit hätte. Statt beinahe einen Tag im Coupe zu sitzen, waren wir in vierzehn Stunden in Paris, und das bedeutete bereits eine Verspätung von einer Stunde, eben der ausserordentlichen Windströmungen wegen, gegen die wir kämpfen mussten. Wir landeten für eine Minute in Le Bourget und wurden auf dem Flugplatz, der ausserhalb Paris ungefähr in einer Distanz wie von Sissach nach Basel liegt, von Monsieur Croni, dem kommerziellen Leiter des Unternehmens, empfangen. Die Plätze im Flugzeug, das uns nach London fahren sollte, waren bestellt, aber es war ungewiss, ob bei dem zunehmenden Sturm gefahren werden konnte, da die Handley-Page-Gesellschaft sehr vorsichtig ist. Aber trotz dem starken Wind entschloss man sich.

"Das grosse Flugzeug, das im Innern ohne Verstrebung alle offene Kabine reich luftig und behaglich aussah, war bald vollständig besetzt durch vierzehn Passagiere und drei Mann der Begleitung. Als wir aufstiegen, sahen wir gegen Norden, also rechts von uns, über Nordfrankreich und Belgien dichte Wolkenschichten schweben. Es waren jene, durch die am selben Tage die Freiballs beim Gordon-Bennett-Fliegen stiessen, wobei dann das grosse Unglück sich ereignete. Wir aber fuhren nun in gerader Richtung nach Boulogne zum Kanal. Unter uns lag gleich einer topographischen Karte das fruchtbare Land, das nur ofter als es nötig schien, wieder von Altwassern und Wassertrümpeln durchsetzt war, sodass man das Gefühl hatte, es könnte auch hier noch manche Strecke urbar gemacht werden. Dann schwebten wir über dem Meer, bis das englische Festland, immer wieder von Sonnenstrahlen erleuchtet, vor uns auftauchte. Unter uns sahen wir den Flugzeugschatten dahingleiten. Erst durch-

queren wir die Dünen, hinter denen sich das bebauten Land gleich einem schönen Garten erhob, bis Industriebauten sichtbar wurden, und so die Nähe Londons verkündeten. So tief glitten wir oft dahin, dass wir die Häuser in ihrer Anlage und ihrem Grundriss bequem studieren konnten.

"Als wir in Croydon, dem Flugplatz von London, landeten, konnten wir noch bei Sonnenschein aussteigen. Schon eine Stunde später war alles von Sturm und Regenschauern erfüllt. Ausser der Besichtigung der Weltstadt, die mir schon von früheren Aufenthalten her bekannt war, sodass ich meinen basellandschaftlichen Kollegen als Cicerone dienen konnte, genossen wir ein Stück englischen Landebahnen durch die freundliche Einladung des Herrn Handley-Page, sein sechzehn Meilen von London entfernt in Stanmore gelegenes Gut zu besuchen. Da ich am Dienstag wieder zurück sein musste, nahm ich den Schnellzug, der mich aber, mit dem Flugtempo verglichen, wie eine Schneckenpost durchs Land zu führen schien.

"Ich bin überzeugt, dass wir in wenig Jahren für weite Strecken das Flugzeug als normale Beförderungsmittel benützen werden. Auch im stärksten Sturmwind hat mich nie das Gefühl absoluter Sicherheit verlassen, und ich kann es begreifen, dass Passagiere, die öfters hinüberfahren, sich an das Surren der Propeller so sehr gewöhnt haben, dass sie behaglich dazu schlafen können.

"Wichtig waren für mich auch die Flugfelder. Dasiene bei Paris ist eine grosse, grüne Matte, in die ein Zementboden für die Landungen eingefügt wurde. Der Platz ist mit einem soliden Drahtzaun umgeben, zu beiden Seiten stehen die grossen Hangars aus feuerfestem Beton, in denen je sechs Flugzeuge untergebracht werden können. In England ist als Landungsplatz ein Spezialboden aus Kies und Tarmacadam gelegt worden, und der Platz selbst ist von einem nicht sehr schönen Blechhag umgeben, wie überhaupt jener Landungsplatz eher einen provisorischen Charakter besitzt.

"Was uns not tut, ist vor allem, der Bau eines grösseren Hangars, der wenigenstens zwei Flugzeuge aufzunehmen im Stande ist. Auch werden wir künftig nach dem Vorbilde von Paris und London Distanzen nicht so sehr scheuen müssen, wenn es sich herausstellen sollte, dass das Stempelfeld nicht brauchbar wäre.

"Jedenfalls bietet dieser Flug bei stürmischem Wetter die Gewähr für die absolute Sicherheit, wie wir der heute unter ausgewählten Leuten auf der Linie Basel-London gefahren wird."

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

After the very nice things which were written about "Kyburg" in the *S.O.*, and especially after the very able way in which "Notes and Gleanings" were conducted during my leave of absence, I have a feeling akin to the one I used to get on the eve of some impending school examination, in setting about to write these lines. I am afraid that my readers expect too much. Perhaps they think, not unreasonably, that I am like a Giant Refreshed, that I am full of new ideas, impressions and "mustard." That may be true, but I am afraid my holiday has been over-successful in that direction, and it will take some time ere these impressions have been properly digested.

After the many flattering articles which have appeared in our paper on holidays in Switzerland, I think it only just to state, as a Swiss, that there is indeed only one Switzerland. And, apart from the natural beauties of our beloved country, it is always an inspiration to me to find our people on the whole extremely well-informed politically. One can feel how soberly, very often unbiasedly and deeply they read the various political manifestations and appraise them at their real worth. I was very much struck, in the Eastern part of Switzerland, by the views on politics I came across, and I confess that quite a number of my own ideas have been affected by arguments I have heard. Of this more by and by.

### The Middle Class.

There are, of course, also funny people in Switzerland. I consider funny, for instance, those who organise and attend a "Congress at Berne to consider the question of the formation of an International Middle Classes Union." I read in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* (22nd Sept.):

Organisation seems to be the order of the day, and its latest manifestation is a Congress at Berne to consider the question of the formation of an International Middle Classes Union. How far internationalism can be expected to aid the movement is not made quite clear, but some recognition of the part played by the middle classes is overdue is acknowledged. The living conditions of the class have not improved in recent years; but then, as history goes, the class itself is but a thing of yesterday. The Middle Ages knew nothing of a Middle Class, at least until the influence of the guildry system grew so strong in urban communities as to challenge the feudal rights of the lords-superior. Now the Middle Class has come, to be looked upon as the fountain which can minister to the thirst of the other sections of the populace. Parliament can go almost into ecstasies over the worker, but let the middle class voice a grievance, then sympathy seems to vanish. Happily there is a growing element in our midst which urges that the middle class not only has grievances, but is determined that these shall be remedied. The starting ground for the ventilation of such lies at our doors, and not in any cosmopolitan



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political society, however lound-sounding in name or well-meaning in objective. The movement inaugurated in Switzerland, however, shows that the *bürgertum* has to bear knows no geographical limitation. Those who groan under it know that only too well, and will welcome even an international recognition that something must be done to lessen its weight.

I have written about this subject once already, in these Notes, and tried to show that a Middle Class Union has not got a iota of a chance. What is Middle Class? The "salaried" proletariat, as distinguished from the mere "wage-earners"? If the middle class of the population—I really do not know who they are—hope to get something by uniting into a Union, why don't they exercise their right to vote? In Switzerland, for instance, the Peasants have already got their Union. Are the peasants not Middle Class? Perhaps some of my readers will enlighten me on the subject.

### The Opium Convention.

*Morning Post* (22nd Sept.):—

League Assembly at Geneva: The Committee on Social Questions, which was discussing opium traffic, was the scene of a little tiff between Dame Edith Lyttelton and M. Ador, Swiss representative. The former complained bitterly about the way in which opium was smuggled from Switzerland into other countries. It was no use, he said, beating about the bush. The truth was that the matter would never be put right till Switzerland ratified the Opium Convention, a thing she had up to the present refused to do, and then Dame Edith Lyttelton proposed what appeared to be practically an appeal on the part of the League to the Swiss people over the head of the Swiss Government. M. Ador protested at the insistence with which his country was criticised, and indignantly repudiated the accusations, promising, however, that Switzerland would ratify the Convention some time next year. In the end the Committee passed a resolution, urging all Governments which had not ratified the Convention to do so promptly.

In Switzerland there is, so to speak, no danger arising out of misuse of drugs. I have been told that this makes it rather irksome for our Government to ratify the Convention. But, if it was possible to deal with absinthe, in order to help our few Welsh Cantons which were not strong enough to deal with the horrible danger alone, it will, I think, also be possible to get our people to favour the Opium Convention, in order to help peoples in other countries. That such a Convention must stand, in unfortunate not to be doubted. Liberty means restrictions wisely applied, or, as they say at home:—

"Mer sind halt freii Schwyzer,  
Mer tuend nu was mer muend!"

**Bishop of Basle-Lugano celebrates his Diamond Jubilee.**

A Swiss National Pilgrimage will leave for the Holy City next month. There have been two successful pilgrimages to the shrine of Our Lady at Lourdes this year.

The Dean of the Swiss Episcopate, Mgr. Jacobus Stammel, D.D., Bishop of Basle-Lugano, recently celebrated the diamond jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. All the other Swiss Bishops met at Soleure, the official residence of Mgr. Stammel, on the occasion, and attended a solemn service of thanksgiving in the ancient cathedral of St. Ursus. Similar services were held in every church and chapel throughout the diocese.

A priest's exciting adventures in the early seventies, during the ill-famed "Kulturmäppi," are recalled by the attainment of his golden jubilee in the priesthood by Fr. J. C. Weber, Rector of St. Mary's Church, Basle. At that time, Fr. Weber had to disguise himself as a

travelling shoemaker, in order to attend, mostly at night, to his priestly duties. The civil authorities of the Canton of Berne, supporting the newly-born sect of so-called 'Old-Catholics,' exiled the Bishop of the diocese. Fr. Weber, however, still obeyed his Bishop's commands, which led to his being persecuted. He was even fired at.

Palpal honours have been bestowed on both Mr. Stammel and Fr. Weber on the occasion of their jubilees.

It seems incredible nowadays to fear a revival of a Kulturkampf in Switzerland. And yet, while in the Canton of Zurich, I heard such fears expressed from at least three different sources. It appears that the Catholics are agitating for Catholic schools, whereas, so far at least, nominally the schools are neutral, the majority of the population, of course, being non-Catholic. The opinion I heard mostly expressed was that such agitation might lead to regrettable controversy, the majority of the population, of course, being unwilling to subsidise Catholic schools. I am not a judge on such matters. My view is simply this: it seems a great pity that such questions of religious feeling should come up for discussion in the Year of Grace 1923!

#### New Machine-Gun.

It is also a great pity that even Switzerland should still have to prepare against warlike aggression! *The Times* (Sept. 26th) prints the following:

Successful trials have just been made in the Swiss Army with a new light machine-gun, made by the Federal Arms factory. This weapon weighs only four or five pounds more than the ordinary infantry rifle, which it much resembles. Its magazine holds thirty rounds, and it is capable of firing at the rate of 450 rounds per minute. From sixteen to twenty-four of these machine-guns will be allotted to every infantry battalion.

But, happily, the day before the same paper is able to report a more peaceful invention, also due to Swiss brains:—

A private demonstration of a new 'speaking film,' which has been invented by three Swiss physicists, was given in Berlin. Though the invention is still in its elementary stages, it opens up a clear line of advance in the production of a successful speaking picture plant.

In order to secure the synchronization of sound and movement, a new microphone is introduced, by means of which the sound waves are converted into electric waves, which, in their turn, produce fluctuations of light in an electric lamp. These are reproduced by photography as small horizontal lines in varying degrees of density and thickness by the side of the main film. When the film is shown on the cinematograph, the revers of this process takes place, the sound being finally transmitted to the screen by an ordinary telephone wire and reproduced through a loud-speaking receiver.

The success which the invention has obtained is largely due to the last-named apparatus. A comparison was made between the playing of a piece of orchestral music on an expensive gramophone and its transmission through the loud-speaking receiver. The telephone was proved to be superior, the note, and even all the twangs of the stringed instruments which were being played in another part of the building, being reproduced distinctly.

#### Swiss Winter Begins.

*Freeman's Journal* (22nd Sept.):—

Winter has begun in Switzerland, and there have been heavy snowfalls, even as low as 5,900 feet above the sea level. Climbing is at a standstill, owing to the storms.

"Kyburg" evidently timed his holidays well, for during three weeks he suffered only one shower; all the rest of the time the weather was absolutely perfect. At Lugano it was even very warm, and I shall not easily forget the evenings spent at the Kursaal, Hugenins and the Riviera, when the Asti Spumante or the Chianti sparkled, and the night air was wonderfully stirred by the sweet music of the orchestra. Or, again, walking late at night through the Park towards Paradiso, looking out over the still lake towards Capriano, stabbed now and then by the searchlight's gleam from Gandria, while the three large boats Ticino, Seppione and Morcote rode at anchor in the Bay, like white ghosts, one could hear a prima-donna's voice floating across the waters from the Kursaal. And from the Salvatore shone the immense querymark-like lights of the upper part of the Funicular Way. Yes, it was nice, and I think I know why so many Swiss make it a habit of visiting Lugano every year!

#### A new S.A.C. Hut.

*The Times* (26th Sept.):—

The Ticino Section of the Swiss Alpine Club has decided to erect in the Val Soja, near the Passo della Piotta, a hut, to be called the "Adula Hut," which will facilitate the ascent of the Rheinwaldhorn (11,150 ft.) and the neighbouring peaks.

#### The Sun Cure at Leysin.

*Nursing Mirror* (22nd Sept.):—

Some little time ago I came across a newspaper article which depicted in glowing terms the marvellous cures said to be effected by Dr. Rollier's sun cure at Leysin, in Switzerland. So striking indeed were the results claimed for this treatment in cases of Pott's disease, coxalgia and other forms of surgical tuberculosis, that I decided, if possible, to make a short stay at Leysin on my way to winter in Italy. The result was so intensely interesting that I think the readers of 'The Nursing Mirror' may like to know some details as seen through the eyes of a nurse. First let me pay a tribute to the courtesy and consideration I met with from the officials at Leysin. I had no introductions to anyone in the place, but, on presenting myself at the principal clinic and explaining my desire to gain some knowledge of the treatment, I was most courteously received by the lady secretary, put in touch with the necessary officials, and introduced to a Russian lady doctor, who took me with her on her round.

The patients I was permitted to see were naturally the children, since grown persons could hardly be expected to receive visitors during a treatment which

necessitates very little clothing. But, as the children are the most interesting, as well as the most hopeful, feature of the Leysin treatment, this was all as it should be. Also I was shown a most interesting series of X-ray and other photographs of some of the most striking cases. In these dated photographs one could mark the gradual process of cure and elimination of the toxic symptoms. But photographs, no matter how striking, are never so satisfying as the actual case in process of cure. Of these, in going from one clinic to another, I saw many. There are some thirty or more of these clinics, of different grades, with varying fees to suit the needs of different classes of patients.

One characteristic which all the clinics seemed to have in common was the happiness and good temper of the children. We who have served in hospital wards know too well the pathetic, heart-breaking patience of a very sick child. But here were children recovering from chronic diseases, in that convalescent stage which tries the tempers of nurse and patient alike, with tingling life flowing back to their little frames, and yet chained to their beds in, as far as possible, perfect immobility. For that is one salient point about the treatment, almost as important as the healing rays of the sun itself—immobility, perfect rest to the affected part. At a certain stage bed cases are allowed to be up for part of the day; but in cases of Pott's disease and other grave lesions, this welcome stage of the treatment naturally does not come very early. But, though Dr. Rollier insists on the immobility, he entirely disapproves of the violent enforcement of it by means of plaster of Paris or ungainly and painful splints. Patients arriving in such are immediately released from them, and the necessary immobility is secured by means of a simple apparatus of stays and straps. During the actual treatment all such apparatus is removed, and the sun's rays allowed to play unchecked upon the body.

The essence of the treatment is that the whole body should be bathed in life-giving sun and air, and this work, Dr. Rollier maintains, would be seriously impeded by silical apparatus. As I have always had a peculiar hatred of plaster of Paris (many amongst us must be able to remember breaking a plaster bandage from a tubercular joint to find that underneath it a suppurating abscess had formed) I hailed this part of the treatment with joy. The actual exposure to the sun's rays is for a strictly limited and graduated time each day (at first only for a few minutes), and whatever part of the body is affected, the treatment begins with the feet. At the first treatment one foot is exposed for about five minutes, next the legs, and gradually other parts of the body, the time increasing daily, until it reaches a maximum of some two hours, beyond which no patient is allowed to go.

One word more of the diseases for which the sun treatment has been found peculiarly beneficial. They are Pott's disease, coxalgia, tuberculosis of the knee and foot, of the shoulder, elbow and hand, osteitis of the cranium, ribs and sternum, tubercular adenitis, tracheobronchial adenopathies, Ponct's rheumatism, tubercle of the peritoneum, kidneys, ureter, bladder, testicles and epididymis, ileo-caecal and intestinal tuberculosis, anal fistula, tubercle of eye, ear and larynx, lupus and many non-tubercular affections, such as open wounds, osteomyelitis and cutaneous affections. It is counter-indicated in cases of amyloid degeneration, ulcerous enteritis with diarrhoea and non-compensated cardiac affections. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are not admitted. It is claimed that the treatment is suitable to all ages, from infants to aged people, provided the patient is accustomed to it by degrees.

I must not conclude without a few words on Leysin itself. It stands high above Aigle, at an altitude of some 4,000 to 4,500 feet above sea level, and, generally speaking, above the clouds, so that one occasionally sees some remarkable effects in what is known as "the sea of clouds." One goes up from Aigle in a funicular railway which slowly ascends through dense forest. The foliage is beautiful at all times, but in the early autumn, when I was there, it is quite indescribably lovely.

#### Canada and Swiss Settlers.

*The Canadian Gazette* (20th Sept.):—

"Canada should grant to groups of Swiss permission to establish themselves in this country in a way to form Swiss villages," said Professor Charles Biegel, in proposing the toast of Canada at a supper dance, given by the Swiss National Society of Montreal on the occasion of the Confederation of the Helvetic states. "Canada would have all to win," continued Professor Biegel, "as the Swiss can be easily acclimated to this country, which so resembles his own by its high mountains and beautiful lakes."

#### ROTH'S INGLORIOUS FIGHT.

Extreme disappointment—to put it mildly—is the impression caused by the performance last Monday at Olympia of Robert Roth, the would-be Swiss champion boxer. Of real boxing there was little evidence; it was all on the side of his opponent, Albert Lloyd. By the end of the second round he was severely mauled; in spite of the interval, he could not sufficiently recover presence of mind to emerge from his corner for the third round, with the result that Mr. Abplanalp found himself compelled to stop the fight. Roth had received a good deal of punishment, and experts are of opinion that he possesses the necessary material for a first-class boxer. Roth, however, does not seem to be able to free himself altogether from his wrestling notions and is slow in becoming familiar with the exigencies of the art of boxing. There would appear to be some truth in the oft-heard assertion that a successful wrestler can never be turned into a promising boxer. One thing is certain, and that is that training for boxing in this country demands a far greater mental concentration and undivided attention to details than the preparation which precedes the proclamation of a "Schwingerkönig." The only thing that Roth seems to have successfully assimilated is the traditional and boastful confidence in victory; to hear him talk before the event, one expected the easiest "Hosenluft" ever demonstrated. This confident expectation had so deeply settled in his mind that he even refused to allow two of his sparring partners to accompany him as seconds. Roth has now left England, and is reported to have gone to Paris.

The patients I was permitted to see were naturally the children, since grown persons could hardly be expected to receive visitors during a treatment which

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Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	75.37%	76.00%
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	100.47%	100.65%
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	81.36%	79.75%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	103.25%	103.25%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	71.23%	71.37%

SHARES.	Sept. 25	Oct. 2
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Crédit Suisse	500	678
Union de Banques Suisses	500	526
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Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2109
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