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# The Swiss Observer

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## FUER UNSERE TESSINER.

AUFRUF AN DIE SCHWEIZER IM AUSLANDE.

Das Departement des Innern des Kantons Tessin hat uns in einem Schreiben gebeten, wir möchtesten auch den Schweizer im Auslande die Hilfsaktion für die durch das Unwetter vom September so schwer geschädigten Gegendens ans Herz legen. Wir kommen dieser Bitte gerne nach, im Bewusstsein des gemeineidgenössischen Sinnes unserer Landsleute im Auslande und der herzlichen Sympathien aller Schweizer für unser schönes, nun so schwer geprüftes Tessin.

Das Dorf Somno am Ufer der Maggia ist zum Teil zerstört. Andere Dörfer haben sehr schwer gelitten. Ausgedehnte Kulturen sind vom Schutt zugedeckt, wertvolle Ernten zerstört worden. Im Osernone-Tal sind die Schäden besonders gross. Ställe und Häuser sind demoliert worden, die Felder von Loco und Gressi verschwemmt. Strassen und Wege wurden zugedeckt. Die jungen Leute beginnen auszuwandern. Nur Greise, Frauen und Kinder bleiben zurück. In einem reicherem Lande wären die Schäden leichter gutzumachen. In diesen Gegendens mit armer Bevölkerung ist die Lage außerordentlich ernst. Schon viele verfügen nicht über die Mittel, um ihre zerstörten Wohnstätten wieder aufzubauen.

Nie war freundigenössische Hilfe dringender. Der Staatsrat des Kantons Tessin wendet sich vertrauensvoll an die Eidgenossen im Inland und Ausland, mit der Bitte um rasche und ausgiebige Hilfe.

Tun wir unsere Pflicht! Wir haben die Tessinische Staatsbank in Bellinzona (Banca dello Stato del Cantone Ticino) gebeten, sie möchte die Gaben der Auslandschweizer entgegennehmen und zur Verfügung des tessinischen Staatsrates halten. Gaben, welche durch die Vermittlung der schweizerischen Konsulate gespendet werden, sind mit dem Vermerk zu verschenken: "Tessinische Staatsbank, Auslandschweizerhilfe für das Tessin."

Mit vaterländischem Gruss!

Secretariat der Auslandschweizer, Freiburg.

## HOME NEWS

A further subsidy of three million francs has been voted by the two Houses to the hotel fiduciary company (Hoteltrehandgesellschaft), with the distinct understanding that no further financial support shall be granted; already five million francs have been spent under this scheme.

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A referendum is being prepared in the western part of Switzerland against the Federal Bill recently passed, restricting further construction in the hotel industry.

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The Association of Innkeepers in the canton of Grisons lodged a protest against a Government proposal to use part of the revenue accruing from the sale of licenses for combatting alcoholism; on the other hand, the association agreed to a gradual reduction in the number of licensed houses.

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The military tribunal of the 4th Division has condemned to 1½ year's hard labour a deserter who in 1914 escaped to Italy to avoid service, and was recently arrested; another recruit received two months' imprisonment for refusing military service on religious grounds. — In Lucerne the criminal courts sentenced a soldier to two months' hard labour for simulating an illness.

\*\*\*

A fire, which broke out on Friday (Oct. 10th) in the warehouses of Messrs. Surber & Co. in Altstetten (Zurich), destroyed large stocks of wood stored for manufacturing purposes.

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The Geneva Grand Conseil, whilst accepting the accounts for 1923, passed a vote of censure on the Conseil d'Etat by refusing to accept the report submitted.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Pour Chillon.** — Samedi (27 Sept.) après-midi a eu lieu à Chillon, la 32me assemblée de l'Association pour la restauration du Château de Chillon.

Les comptes et la gestion ont été approuvés. La fortune de l'Association se monte à 76,907 frs. 85. Les dépenses pour travaux exécutés en 1923 atteignent fr. 23,040,15 et les achats d'objets anciens fr. 8,459,25.

M. Naef a donné d'intéressants détails sur la future salle du Musée dont l'emplacement est définitivement fixé. Une belle pièce, aussi spacieuse que la salle dite des chevaliers, située du côté sud, avait été auanéagée, vers le milieu du siècle dernier, pour y loger des prisonniers. Six cellules y avaient été construites. Cette distribution va être démolie et la salle reprendra son premier aspect. On compte redonner au plafond l'élegant et originale forme cintrée et haute qu'il avait au XIIe siècle.

Les travaux vont commencer prochainement et il est probable qu'en 1926 le Musée sera installé, ce qui comblera une lacune.

Une famille vaudoise, dont le chef, aujourd'hui décédé, était un collectionneur averti, a offert de mettre à la disposition du comité, en dépôt, une collection d'armes suisses de grande valeur et d'une absolue authenticité. Ce sera un appréciable atout pour le futur Musée, qui reviendra sans doute des objets et armes qui furent enlevés et déposés au siècle dernier. (*Feuille d'Avis*.)

**A la mémoire de Capo d'Istria.** — Vendredi matin (3 octobre) a eu lieu, en présence de M. Politis et des autorités genevoises, du chargé d'affaires de Grèce en Suisse, l'inauguration de la plaque commémorative du séjour à Genève de Capo d'Istria, plaque scellée dans le mur de l'immeuble No. 10 de la rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, et qui porte l'inscription suivante:

"Ici demeura, de 1822 à 1827, Jean Capo d'Istria, de Corfou, ministre du tsar Alexandre Ier aux Congrès de Vienne et Paris, gouverneur élu de la Grèce affranchie, citoyen de Genève et de Lausanne."

Au nom de l'Association gréco-suisse, J. G. Eynard, M. E. Chapuis rappela ce que Genève et la Suisse doivent à Capo d'Istria qui fut à Vienne le guide fidèle de Pictet de Rochemont.

M. Politis exprima le voeu que le monument contribue à perpétuer les liens qui unissent Genève et la Grèce.

A l'issue de la cérémonie, M. Politis a déposé une couronne devant le monument de J. G. Eynard aux Bastions. (*Gazette de Lausanne*.)

**Luganese Feuerwehr.** — Die Feuerwehr von Lugano beteiligte sich am Sonntag (28. Sept.) an dem Feuerwehrwettbewerb in Turin, an dem die deutesten italienischen Gruppen teilnahmen. Die Feuerwehr von Lugano belegte den ersten Platz in der zweiten Kategorie bei einer Beteiligung von 58 Feuerwehren. Die Luganese wurden zu Siegern "ausser Konkurrenz" proklamiert und erhielten eine grosse goldene Medaille. (*Berner Tagwacht*.)

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By A. W.

### Le Païais Féderal et Westminster.

Un correspondant du *Hampstead Advertiser*, de passage à Berne, a été grandement impressionné par les beautés de notre capitale, et en particulier du Palais Féderal. Voici ce qu'il nous en dit (2 Oct.):—

While British Members of Parliament must content themselves, during their moments of leisure, with a sight of the Thames and St. Thomas's Hospital, Swiss Deputies and Senators are able to delight their eyes and refresh their minds with glimpses of the Alps, for the Bundeshaus or Federal Palace in Berne, the seat of the Swiss Government, commands some charming views of the mountains. It undoubtedly dominates all other modern buildings in the City. Built in Florentine Renaissance style, its interior is remarkably ornamented and contains some remarkable paintings. In contrast to the Houses of Parliament, the Law

Courts are a typical example of the old Bernese style of architecture—a strange blending of French baroque and the Bernese country house style. The great charm of the public gardens in Berne is the view of the Bernese Alps obtained from them. The chain of snowcapped, glittering peaks which surround the Jungfrau may be seen on any clear day, and seen to much greater advantage than at close range. From the Gurten, 2,800 feet above sea level and the city's most prominent point of view, the magic of this panorama is considerably enhanced. The great gateways form the choicest ornaments of old Berne, one of them—the old bellry clock tower—containing wonderful and complicated horological mechanism of the 16th century, the comic figures of which still make known the hours of the day by their quaint and ingenious actions. No reference to Berne would be complete without mention of the bear pit, where the beasts have been maintained by the municipality for centuries. They afford much diversion to both young and old by their serio-comic demeanour and great appetites.

### Obstinate Turks.

Le correspondant de Londres du *Yorkshire Observer* éprouve du ressentiment à ce que M. Motta ait été chargé par la Société des Nations de nommer la commission devant investiguer dans la question de Mosul. Voici les raisons qu'il nous donne:

If other matters were not absorbing the interest of legislators at the moment, I imagine there would probably be some resentment at the choice of M. Motta by the League of Nations as one of the two Commissioners who will select the members of the body that is to investigate the Mosul question. M. Motta is a Hungarian geographer and therefore an ex-enemy. Another factor which might arouse comment is the friendliness which has existed since the war between Turkey and Hungary.

I gather that our representatives would have preferred that an ex-enemy should not have been entrusted with this task of being mainly responsible for fixing the boundary, but we are logically accepting the choice of M. Motta, as we are that of M. Branting, the Norwegian lawyer, who has practised in Egypt, and therefore has some cognisance, however slight, of the problem.

Some inquiries have already been made by M. Motta and M. Branting on the subject of the remainder of the personnel. Meanwhile, Mr. Ponsonby to-day had to confess to having no further information to offer. Turkey has still failed to reply to our Notes, and so far as we can judge, her troops are still on the wrong side of the frontier.

Une presse aussi bien informée: nous apprendra bientôt que M. Gustave Ador est un général mexicain!

### Septembre au Tessin.

Le correspondant tessinois du *Morning Post*, dans l'issue de ce journal du 22 septembre, nous donne ses impressions du mois de septembre sur les rives du lac de Lugano:—

... But the day after! Atmosphere aspelluid as a mountain pool, mountains cutting the blue with keenly-chiselled silhouettes, and from the peaks the infinite panorama of Lombardy, the distant Alps, Milan faintly pencilled in the South. At our feet two of the greater lakes, and glimpses of a third, all revolving under the flood of light in their innumerable laughter. To leap, as one is tempted to leap, from the summit of San Salvatore into the water would be rather a high dive; let us return home, and at the front door, so to speak, the waters of Lugano invite us. Push out the trim little 'barca' from the boathouse, and gently slide overboard. There is plenty of scope for swimming; twenty yards from land the waters are unfathomable—at all events, they have never yet been fathomed. Then, if you are athletic, climb back into the boat; if you are not an acrobat, be towed back to land, and sit and bake to a nice brown in the afternoon sun. Like a good hearty Burgundy, it is generous and full, but not too spirit. All this in the middle of September, when already many of the leaves are beginning to turn! Oh, not to be in England now the summer's there! . . .

On the southern shore of Lake Lugano lies the beautiful Valsolda, and it is one of the merits of this lake, as compared with Como and Maggiore, that when you want exercise you do not lounge along the Front, but you gird up your loins and climb the cobbled mountain paths to the enchanting Valsolda villages. These paths run everywhere, and, provided you do not essay them in leather shoes—for then you will slip and skate on the polished cobbles—you can follow them into heights and glades of the purest loveliness. Vines and figs and peaches, great golden pumpkins, and it would seem, most of the fruits of the earth, border all the paths, and in the glades flourish innumerable chestnuts, walnuts, olive-trees, and wild figs. The rich grass is everywhere mown industriously for hay, and the September air is full of the scents of spring, and even where the scythe has passed, there stand disclosed myriads of Michaelmas daisies, mauve crocuses in all the shady plots, and even the shy cyclamen with its delicate fragrance.

High up on the grassy plateau of Muzzallo, on the occasion of a Church festival, we find the peasants assembled for a 'festa'. It is a thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth. First, to the altar, with taper and tithe, and then a quiet day of pic-nic, and 'dolce far niente', with family and friends, in the shade of the chestnuts. Rude booths are set up, where, arriving hot and tired, we may refresh ourselves with red wine at the cost of under a penny per tumbler. An auction of the fruits is held, and we purchase a heaping basket of peaches, figs, nuts, apples, and grapes for two shillings. The goats and cows wander amably among the pic-nic parties; a cold nozzle thrust into your hand reminds you that a

lady with a long beard would be grateful for a bunch of grapes, some peach-peelings, a cigarette, or, as a tit-bit, a masticable portion of the 'Morning Post.'

**Carona and Morcote.**

Dans son issue du mois d'octobre, *The Millgate Monthly* nous donne, sous la plume de M. Alfred Holt, une charmante description d'un joli coin de pays et peu connu. C'est le Tessin de nouveau, mais le Tessin pittoresque loin des hôtels et des touristes, celui que nous aimons le mieux.

We wandered through the wooded slopes of Agno to Landhaus, a romantic old house with a picturesque loggia which overlooked the Lake of Lugano. In Landhaus, warriors of old were imprisoned in the dark dungeons, and many must have been the tales that were told round the open fire-places. Little wonder, therefore, that the house possessed a ghost, which was said to appear in the loggia at midnight, in ghostly white, and carrying the swords of those who had long since departed.

It was from this interesting old house that we made our rambles into Carona and Morcote, places almost unknown, in a land of ever increasing beauty.

Here the women and girls in the fields stop their work when the Church bells chime the call to prayer, and cross themselves as they pass the wayside shrine. They live simple lives, and think little of worldly things. From early morning to late at night they spend their time in the fields, and carry their produce in baskets on their backs. To carry a hundredweight is but a little task to them, and often-times we stood and strolled at their burdens; but they seldom looked at us—we were stranger-intruders.

The old women take their washing to the lakeside or to the covered washing-places at the end of the village. One such took us into her home. It was a picture of dire poverty, but a haven of happiness. There were only two rooms, and these were scantily furnished, an odd chair here, and there a bench which was used as a bed and a table. The walls were adorned with pictures of the Madonna and Child, and other sacred representations. A pan of eating-chestnuts simmered on the burning fagots in the open fireplace. The living-room was full of shelves, on which were hundreds of silk-worms. The peasants cultivate silk-worms, and sell them to the silk factories in Como and Milan. In this way they swell their income, and so pull through the winter months. Their food is scanty and of little variety. Mostly it is polenta, a porridge made of maize. Polenta, eating-chestnuts—which they eat as we eat potatoes—and fruit supply them with the sustenance for their arduous labours.

The woods in this district are treasures of delight. In them pomegranate, eating-chestnut, lemon, beech, and cypress trees bloom, and myrtle boughs wind their way across the path. Squirrels leap from branch to branch, and look down on passers-by with a scornful glance, for they know they can scamper out of harm's way. Snakes sun themselves on the path, and green lizards dart swiftly into the shrubbery when they hear the noise of intruders into the quiet of the woodlands. Occasionally little salamanders—black little newts with yellow streaks on their backs—crawl across the road. Ugly slow worms sulkyly creep through the long grass, and at night hundreds of frogs whistle incessantly until they almost become a nuisance.

In the air fly hawks and eagles; it is awe-inspiring to listen to the shrieks of their wretched victims. Carona is a favourite meeting-ground for the birds of prey. There are many wood pigeons, which provide dainty meals for the peasants. But it is disappointing to know that the peasants also eat swallows.

The scenery reminds one of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with many Pucks playing about in rags, canny little fellows with expectant faces, waiting for our chocolate.

It was in such country that we rambled about, and where we obtained pictures that can never die, scenes of beauty to cheer us on our gloomy days.

**THE SWISS CHOCOLATE TRADE.**

Swiss chocolate, like Swiss milk, enjoys the best of reputations on the markets of the world, and this reputation has been enhanced since the appearance of milk chocolate. The long experience of the manufacturers, a capable commercial organization, exemplary plants and careful and cleanly preparation of the products have always contributed to heighten the reputation of Swiss chocolate, and, especially since the commencement of this century, have continually increased the number of its markets. Before the war, Switzerland was in the sixth rank of chocolate-making countries in regard to the quantity produced, preceded by America, Germany, France, England and Holland. But Switzerland exported the greatest quantities. As the production of medium sorts of chocolate is possible everywhere, chocolate factories have arisen all over the world with the increase in consumption. Hence superior brands alone can compete in the world's markets.

If we follow the development of the Swiss chocolate trade from its beginnings as a big industry, we shall at once see that, like so many other industries of this little country, it spread its activities far beyond the frontiers of Switzerland as soon as it was in a position to produce typical qualities (milk and fondant chocolate) such as other countries were not able to obtain from their own manufacturers. The importation of foreign chocolates into Switzerland was not, in contradistinction to conditions on so many other markets, checked, nor was the development of the Swiss products founded in any way on cheaper raw materials or labour. Swiss chocolate owes its reputation only to the capabilities of its manufacturers, who cope with foreign competition by means of carefully made and tasty productions, and by employing far-sighted modern commercial methods.

The difficulties to be overcome, particularly in consequence of the smallness of the country, and because foreign competitors had learnt in time to make many things better than they had done previously, are not easy to describe.

The Swiss exports of cocoa products were:—

Year	Value in francs	Year	Value in francs
1873	1,060,000	1919	114,689,504
1885	1,912,000	1920	96,421,535
1895	3,762,909	1921	57,608,662
1905	31,859,961	1922	27,216,000
1910	41,408,668	1923	20,257,000
1915	90,732,859	1924 (6 months)	14,174,000

The above figures do not call for comment. To them may be added the home consumption, which was estimated in 1910 at Frs. 18,500,000, and in 1923 at about Frs. 39,000,000.

The Great War proved, more than anything else previously, the necessity of cocoa and chocolate products as invaluable foods with high calories and great possibilities of conservation. Not only did friends and relatives vie with each other in sending these to the men at the front, but also the war commissariats of nearly all countries began within a few months after the outbreak of the war to buy them wholesale for the needs of the troops.

One mistake was constantly made, however, by foreign countries, viz., that they set too low a value in their orders on the quality of the goods to be delivered, seeing that their chief attention was almost exclusively confined to the question of price.

Chemistry tells us that fat has about double as many calories as albumen even, quite apart from the fact that it performs other important functions in the nourishing process. And we also know that chocolate, the less it is rich in fat, the cheaper it is, for the simple reason that in its manufacture as much sugar and as little cocoa as possible are used.

The fat contents of the cheapest chocolate made in accordance with the Swiss Food Acts is about 16%; fondant and milk chocolate have on an average 30% of fat. These chocolates, owing to the extreme perfection of their preparation, are undoubtedly more digestible than cheaper chocolates. The Swiss Army Commissariat was the first at the beginning of the war to supply the troops with chocolate to eat between whistles. They selected for this purpose the special kind made in the works of Tobler's, Limited, at Berne, viz., their patent fondant chocolate with malt biscuit, known under the name of "Nimrod."

The Swiss Chocolate Trade is a typical export trade. In 22 small and large factories it gives occupation at present to about 5000 operatives, and uses about 6000 H.P. The capital invested in the trade has been estimated at about Frs. 100,000,000. This capital is entirely Swiss, and the Swiss chocolate industry has been able to keep itself clear from the infiltration of foreign capital.

Owing to the big capital necessary for paying the extensive technical and commercial apparatus of a chocolate factory, nearly all the establishments have been transformed in the course of the last 20 years' development into joint stock companies.

The most development of these also have plants in other countries, as well as sales organizations and storehouses in the chief towns.

The two biggest milk chocolate producers, Peter-Cailler-Kohler and Tobler, also possess their own milk-boiling houses in Switzerland.

(*Swiss Exporter.*)

**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.**

The various Federal Departments some weeks ago submitted to the Federal Treasury their budget schemes for 1925. These estimates are still being sifted through by the Federal authorities, in the hope of discovering means of still further reducing expenditure, but in the provisional showing there was already a notable reduction of budget deficit to be recorded. It is now estimated that the Federal accounts will show a deficit of about 16½ million francs, which compares very favourably with a budgeted deficit of Frs. 37,800,000 for the present year. In the case of the latter, the eventual results will, of course, turn out very much more favourably than was foreseen in the budget.

The Cetlikon Machinery Works closed their year at the end of June with a net profit of Frs. 1,847,899, which is approximately the equivalent of that achieved in the previous twelve months. The dividend is again 8 per cent. on the capital of 16 million francs. It is remarked in the directors' report that for the first half of the business year the effects of the general business slump made themselves very clearly felt, and that only in the spring of 1924 was any real improvement to be recorded. This tendency has, however, persisted, and the Company's workshops are now busy. The demand for the electrical plant and requisites manufactured by the firm has greatly increased, owing to the increased volume of electrical current which has been available for industry in Switzerland.

The Zuckerfabrik und Raffinerie A.G. in Aarberg closed its year on the 30th of June with a net profit of Frs. 103,113, as compared with Frs. 181,114 in the previous year. The dividend of 6 per cent. is repeated.

The Cantonal Bank of Zurich has just increased its capital by the issue of a 5½% loan of 10 million francs. The new loan was fully subscribed at once, and the lists were closed.

**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.**

BONDS.	Oct. 7		Oct. 14
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	73.85%	73.67%	
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	97.50%	97.87%	
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	77.30%	76.30%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	100.37%	100.25%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	67.00%	67.75%	
SHARES.	Nom.	Oct. 7	Oct. 14
		Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	642	642
Crédit Suisse...	500	675	678
Union de Banques Suisses...	500	540	540
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3170	3115
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1887	1861
C. F. Bally S.A. ....	1000	1110	1105
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	645	650
Entreprises Sulzer ...	1000	610	627
S.A. Brown Bovery (new) ...	500	292	289
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond.Mk. Co.	200	198	198
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	145	142
Comp. de Navign sur le Lac Léman	500	505	480



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