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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The "Zachringen" bridge at Fribourg, which is replacing the famous suspension bridge erected in 1832-34, was officially opened to traffic last Sunday in the presence of Federal President Chuard. The new bridge, which is supported by seven pillars at a height of 48.5 metres above the level of the Sarine, was constructed by the Zurich firm of Züblin & Co. at a cost of two million francs.

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The next Tir Fédéral (Eidg. Schützenfest) will probably be held in Lugano or Bellinzona.  
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The two Federal Chambers—the States Council and the National Council—will assemble for their winter session on December 1st, when they will elect a new President of the Confederation: the reconstitution of the Federal Tribunal will also come under consideration.

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A history of the town of Arau in the Middle Ages, written by Dr. Walter Merz, is to be published by the municipality and distributed free of charge to all the citizens.

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The well-known Lucerne lawyer and political agitator, Dr. Kramis, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment for spreading false rumours and libelling high officials of the local courts.

\*\*\*  
Jakob Vogt, an elderly farmer of Rüggenach (Aargau), was shot dead and robbed on Tuesday morning (Nov. 11th) when going to the market at Brugg. The murderer, a youth of 20, by trade a saddler, was arrested at Lucerne a few days later; he has confessed to another similar crime committed recently in Summiswald.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Augmentation du coût de la vie.**—Après la famine, puis les pâtes alimentaires, tout renchérit et le chiffre index qui était de 171,8 au début d'octobre a passé à 174,7 au début de novembre. Et nous ne sommes qu'au début de l'hiver. Les salariés modestes ont des budgets de plus en plus serrés. Les achats d'automne indispensables ne peuvent être faits. On achète au détail combustible et pommes de terre alors que l'achat en gros est impossible parce que les fonds manquent—permettrait quelques économies. Le coût de la vie augmente, les salaires sont stationnaires ou diminuent. Seuls les banquiers ont la partie belle et peuvent augmenter sans cesse leurs revenus par des placements avantageux.

Sait-on que l'emprunt allemand — tranche suisse — vient d'être couvert 108 fois par les souscripteurs? — Mais il s'agissait d'une affaire rapportant du 8%.

(*La Travail*)

**Une nouvelle cabane.**—L'Hôtel Weismies, bien connu des alpinistes qui ont excursionné dans la vallée de Saas, de propriété particulière qu'il était, passe en mains du Club alpin suisse. Racheté par la section d'Olten, ce petit hôtel sera transformé en une cabane pouvant contenir une quarantaine de clubistes. Il sera fort apprécié. (*La Suisse*)

**Les fêtes.**—On a compté qu'il y a eu, en Suisse, cette année, 230 fêtes de grande envergure, (47 de gymnastique, 32 de tir, 25 de lutte, 21 de chant, 20 de musique, 29 courses et concours hippiques, etc.), et cinq cents fêtes de moindre importance. (*La Patrie Suisse*)

**Das Fräulein Pfarrer in der Kirche Bözberg.**—Am Sonntag, den 19. Oktober, war in der Kirche Bözberg etwas Seltsames zu sehen, was jung und alt aus der Kirchengemeinde zusammenführte. Nämlich: ein Fräulein auf der Kanzel. Fräulein Mathilde Merz, Tochter des verstorbenen Herrn Merz, Turnlehrer in Bern, welche diesen Herbst das theologische Staatsexamen bestanden hat, hielt in dertöter Kirche eine Predigt. Ergreifend war diese mit grosser Begeisterung vorgebrachte Predigt, welcher allgemeine Lob gespendet wurde. Die Musikgesellschaft Bözberg brachte am Nachmittag den Fräulein Pfarrer zu Ehren ein flottes Ständchen. (St. Galler Stadt-Ztg.)

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

### The General Election.

It is, perhaps, somewhat late in the day to refer to the Parliamentary Elections this country has just emerged from. Nevertheless, there are one or two reflections which I should like to put before my readers.

Discussing the elections with a Tory friend of mine recently, I told him of the very high prestige Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had in Switzerland, chiefly owing to his attitude towards Universal Peace. My friend retorted, "m'yes, of course; he did make a fine speech at Geneva, but that was about all, and it's deeds, not words, that count."

Personally, I am of totally different opinion. To my mind, words are the great force which has at all times moved Civilisation onwards, and *deeds*, for the most part, have been the brakes which have hindered that onward movement, even while anxious to further it. Think of Christ, Mohamed, and the other religious leaders, think of J. J. Rousseau, Robespierre, Marx, Lenin, think of President Wilson! Were not those who did the deeds, after the words had been spoken by others, less important? And so, I think, we ought to be grateful to the British Labour Party, and especially to their leader, Ramsay MacDonald, for the words he has given to the world, and which have at least shown the goal towards which Europe and the whole world will have to travel if Peace is to be brought about. And, as for the *deeds* of the late Labour Government, I can think of no finer epitaph than the old Latin tag we had to learn at school: "Ut desint vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas!" which means, "Although the strength may fail, let us praise the will!"

### Death of a Famous Priest-Scientist.

*Catholic Herald* (8th Nov.):—

The death has taken place of Fr. Gabriel Micei, O.S.B., the librarian of the celebrated Library of Einsiedeln Abbey, Switzerland.—R.I.P.

Deceased, who was aged 80, was ordained in 1870 and began his sacerdotal career as a parish priest. In 1878 Abbot Basil Oberholzer offered him the post of librarian of the vast Abbey Library, and he held this appointment for forty years.

As the fruits of his labour he published many books on science. He also compiled "The Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Codices of the Library of the Monastery of Einsiedeln," in addition to books on St. Benedict, St. Bernard, and other writers of the Middle Ages. The editors of various encyclopedias also owed much to his collaboration.

### The late Prof. Dr. J. Fr. Schär's "Co-operative Confession of Faith."

The *Millgate Monthly* (November issue) publishes a translation of an article by Ulrich Meyer on "The Grand Old Man of the Swiss Co-operative Movement," and I think the following passage will interest many readers:—

... His co-operative confession of faith, to which he gave expression in 1916, when the Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies celebrated the jubilee of its twenty-five years' existence, faithfully reflects his conviction; and we cannot think of a better close to this short sketch than his own words: "It is a great happiness when one as an older man, in the evening of his life, still has faith in the victorious power of his ideal, and can foresee the realisation of that on which he has built his life and his strength. I believe the triumphant power of the organisation of consumers is greater than all the capitalistic concentration in trusts, rings, and syndicates. I believe in the great mission which, by self-help and through the organisation of their strength as consumers, the great mass of the people has to fulfil. The production of wealth is the economic, and the right distribution of it the social, problem; the solution of both problems is the task of the organisation of consumers in free co-operative societies."

Since then this utterance has been translated into Italian, and is now perpetuated in the Palace of the "Unione Cooperativa" in Milan

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(The Co-operative Society of Milan) in letters of gold on a marble tablet. It is indeed a worthy motto for the whole Co-operative Movement. And it certainly embraces a programme the realisation of which all of us must make it our aim.

### German Tourists in Switzerland.

Various newspapers have published the news that German tourists presented Switzerland with some £2,000,000 during the past season. I can believe that to be quite true. At Lugano, in September, certainly 90 per cent. of all visitors were German. Now, according to the papers, the Committee for the Assistance of Poor Children has decided to suspend its aid so far as Germany is concerned, as a protest against the luxury displayed by German tourists in Switzerland. It is a mad world, my masters! I should have thought that our people in Switzerland might have devoted some of the £2,000,000 left by the Germans to extend the aid given to German children and others. I know, of course, that those two millions went into the pockets of the hotel-keepers. But surely, Switzerland is richer by the greater part of two million pounds all the same, owing to the display of luxury by the German tourists, and therefore it seems madness to me to punish the little children who, I should think, have not been guilty of displaying luxury. Why not put a heavy tax on German tourists, or make them contribute towards the keep and the aid of the German children? That would be more sensible than make the little ones suffer for something they are not connected with at all. And how complacently people read such "protests" and self-righteously think to themselves, "Serve them right, that will show them!" Oh, what true Christians we are, and how the Lord, who called the little children to Him, must be pleased when He notices that "protest"!

### Helping Swiss Immigrants to settle in Canada.

*The Times* (6th Nov.):—

An organization, embracing nearly 100 representative Canadians, has been completed, with the object of promoting the successful establishment of Swiss settlers in Canada.

During 1923, 1,400 Swiss came to the Dominion. They were assisted by the Swiss Government, with which the Canadian Department of Colonization heartily co-operated. Most of these settlers were persuaded to work for a year on Canadian farms, and many are now ready to take up homesteads themselves.

The new organization draws its support from payments for services rendered to the owners' land on which settlers are established, from fees of members, and voluntary contributions.

### Swiss-German Trade Protocol.

*Financial News* (11th Nov.):—

As a result of German-Swiss trade negotiations, a protocol has been agreed upon, whereby Switzerland withdraws import restriction before next October, while Germany promises to cancel import port prohibition.

### Winter Sports.

Readers will remember that we published a great number of articles last year, all dealing with various aspects of Winter Sport in Switzerland. The experience then gained made us pass a solemn resolution that this season we would do nothing of the sort. The strain on our nerves is far too great. Sitting in foggy old London, unable to pronounce most consonants owing to perpetual cold in the head, hard put to it to find the money for buying more and more handkerchiefs for drying our fog-irritated eyes, initial, and, after a full day's work in town, facing the prospect of sitting for hours in a fog-bound train, with the carriage unheated—these considerations make it impossible for us to read, much less to comment upon, articles dealing with the glories of winter sport. We hope, our readers will understand. Of course, we intend to keep them *au fait* should anything especially exciting happen. For the moment we refer them to the special winter sports number of "The Bystander." The *Sunday Times* (Nov. 9th) commented upon that number as follows:

To anyone who has visited Switzerland during the winter the special winter sports number of the "Bystander," just published, will come as a pleasant surprise. Pleasant—because of the beauty of its production in colour and black-and-white. As a surprise—because of the novel and very exhaustive way in which the subject has been approached.

Our lively contemporary has always presented everything from a new angle, a system that must have been many times rather difficult to adhere to. In this issue especially the subject of winter