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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

In the aerial service Geneva-Zurich-Munich and Zurich-Munich-Venice there will be two flights per day in each direction from May 22 to Oct. 15.

\*\*\*

Commercial intercourse with Russia has improved during 1923. Swiss Imports from Russia went up from 527,000 frs., representing 600 tons of goods, the previous year, to 4 million francs and 8,000 tons respectively. Swiss Exports to Russia increased from 615,000 frs. to 1,800,000 frs. in value and from 89 tons to 385 tons in weight.

\*\*\*

The 1st International Congress of the Middle Classes will take place at Berne and Interlaken from Sept. 2nd to 5th.

\*\*\*

About 150 boy scouts from Kent have been in Geneva, Berne and Fribourg on a tour, and were well received by Swiss boy scouts.

\*\*\*

Geneva is still going through a serious commercial crisis; during 1923, 38 factories had to close down.

\*\*\*

The total number of deaths resulting from the recent serious railway accident at Bellinzona now appears to be 15. The Swiss Federal Railways estimate the material damages at 1,300,000 frs. There was an impressive funeral of the victims at Bellinzona. The Tessin Government was present in a body, as well as the foreign consuls at Lugano. Serious enquiry is being made into the causes of the disaster, but it is hard to find out who is responsible.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Faculté libre.** — Mlle. Lydia von Auw, à Morges, a obtenu de la Faculté de Théologie de l'Église libre vaudoise le diplôme de bachelier en théologie, à la suite de la soutenance, à la satisfaction du jury, d'une thèse intitulée "Essai d'une histoire du modernisme catholique en Italie." Mlle. von Auw est la première femme qui obtient le grade de bachelier en théologie de la Faculté libre de théologie et sauf erreur, la première aussi en Suisse romande. (*Gazette de Lausanne*.)

**Le Valais aura moins de députés.** — Le Conseil d'Etat valaisan propose au Grand Conseil la réduction du nombre des députés. Jusqu'ici ce dernier corps comptait 109 membres élus à raison d'un député pour 1000 âmes de population suisse. La nouvelle organisation prévoit que le Grand Conseil sera élu sur la base d'un député par 1400 âmes, chaque fraction de 701 âmes donne droit à un siège, réduisant ainsi le nombre des députés à 85.

(*La Suisse*.)

**Éclaireurs anglais.** — Venant du comté de Kent cinquante trois éclaireurs anglais sont arrivés samedi (19 avril) à Genève. Ils ont été reçus par une délégation d'éclaireurs genevois, et conduits au Stade municipal de Frontenex où sera leur quartier général durant leur séjour à Genève. Les éclaireurs anglais visiteront lundi le Secrétariat général de la Société des Nations où ils seront reçus par Sir E. Drummond, secrétaire général; mardi ils quitteront Genève pour continuer leur voyage vers le Valais et le Lötschberg, jusqu'à Berne. (*Gazette de Lausanne*.)

**Les étrangers en Suisse.** — Les données exactes sur le nombre des étrangers en Suisse ne sont fournies par le recensement fédéral que tous les dix ans. Les résultats provisoires issus du recensement de 1920 donnent le chiffre de 404,974, c'est-à-dire le 10,4% de la population totale; la proportion était de 14,7% en 1910.

Le Bureau fédéral de statistique communique que le nombre des étrangers dans les cantons de Genève, Neuchâtel, Bâle-Ville et Zurich diminué de 1920 à 1922, de 146,088 à 130,162. Si l'on prenait une même proportion pour la Suisse entière leur nombre aurait diminué de 35,000 environ durant les années 1921 et 1922 et ils ne seraient plus que le 9,5% de la population totale. Cette réduction devrait être attribuée pour une moitié à des départs et pour l'autre à des naturalisations. (*Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne*.)

**Les Céciliennes de la Haute-Gruyère.** — A Montbovon, le lundi de Pâques, s'est tenue la réunion

des Céciliennes de la Haute-Gruyère; elle groupait les sections d'Albeuve, Montbovon, Lessoc, Neuvive, Grandvillard, Estavannent, Gruyères et Le Pâquier, avec un effectif de trois cents chanteurs. Il y eut le matin, à 10 heures, un office à l'église paroissiale où les chanteurs exécutèrent la messe en musique de Huber, sous la direction de M. Lambert (Grandvillard), un banquet à midi, fut suivi, à 14 heures, du concours. Le jury était composé de MM. l'abbé J. Bovet, chanoine Weber (Fribourg); deux choeurs d'ensemble furent ensuite exécutés. M. le chanoine Weber parla au nom du jury et constata que les sections s'étaient sérieusement préparées et les félicita. La société de musique "La Montagnarde" de Montbovon apporta son concours à la fête qui avait attiré de la Gruyère et du Pays-d'Enhaut de nombreux amateurs du chant.

Les Céciliennes constituent une association distincte de la Société cantonale des Chanteurs frimbourgeois. (*Gazette de Lausanne*.)

**Tod einer Hundertjährigen.** — Am Ostermontag fand in Wohlen ein grosser historischer Umzug statt, der die Entwicklung der Strohindustrie darstellte. Im Umzug wurde die älteste Aargauerin, die 102 Jahre alte Frau Hagenbuch, in einer Droschke mitgeführt. Sie ist nun am Dienstagmorgen gestorben, und zwar, wie man annimmt, an den Folgen der Aufregung, das Fest mit sich brachte. (*Newer Zürcher Zeitung*.)

**Oberaargauisch-Emmenthalisches Gesangfest in Hergenbuchsee.** — Die Vorbereitungen für das am 18. Mai nächstthin stattfindende oberaargauisch-emmenthalische Gesangfest sind in vollem Gange. Das Fest verspricht ziemlich grosse Dimensionen anzunehmen; nicht weniger als 40 Vereine mit rund 1600 Sängern und Sängerinnen haben ihre Beteiligung zugesagt. Der Wettgesang und das Hauptkonzert werden in der geräumigen, historisch bekannten Kirche stattfinden. Mit Rücksicht auf die kurze Dauer des Festes und die im Verhältnis allzu hohen Baukosten wird von der Erstellung einer Festhütte Abstand genommen. Dagegen ist in dem unmittelbar an das Dorf grenzenden sogenannten "Löhlwald" ein Festplatz mit Musikpavillon und mit über 1000 Sitzplätzen vorgesehen. Wenn das traditionell schöne Buchsitzwetter just an diesem Tage nicht aus der Rolle fällt, dürfte sich auf diesem ideal gelegenen Festplatz zweifellos eine fröhliche Sängergemeinde vereinigen. (*Solothurner Tagblatt*.)

**Eine Erinnerung an Ostern 1524.** — Am Osterfest des genannten Jahres (das Datum fiel damals allerdings auf einen früheren Apriltag) wurde in den Kirchen der Stadt und Landschaft Zürich zum letztemal katholischer Gottesdienst gefeiert. Unmittelbar darauf verließen die bei der alten Lehre verbliebenen Geistlichen ihre Pfründen, die Altäre und Bilder wurden entfernt usw. Bekanntlich konnte dann erst im 19. Jahrhundert die katholische Kirche in Zürich wieder festen Fuss fassen. Und wenn nun am 20. April — nach 400 Jahren — in den Gotteshäusern der blühenden zürcherischen Diaspora das freudenreiche Alleluja des Osteramtes er tönt, so erinnert es uns in doppeltem Sinne an

## THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SWISS SAMPLES FAIR WILL BE HELD AT BASLE 17th to 27th May, 1924.

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The Swiss Bank Corporation,  
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A special conducted party will be arranged by the *Swiss Observer* to leave London on Saturday, May 17th.

Other travelling facilities may be obtained from the *Swiss Federal Railways*, 11b, Regent Street, S.W.1.

die Schriftworte (Geh. Offenbarung 1, 18): "Ich war tot und siehe, ich bin wieder lebendig geworden." (*Neue Zürcher Nachrichten*.)

**Springkonkurrenz in Solothurn.** — Der Reitverein Solothurn veranstaltet am 4. Mai 1924 eine Springkonkurrenz in Emmenholz. Die Veranstaltung wird dieses Jahr in grösserem Rahmen durchgeführt als in früheren Jahren. Speziell dürfte Erwähnung finden, dass für Offiziere zwei Springkonkurrenzen stattfinden, und zwar ein Eröffnung und ein Armeeprise. Auch wird Reisentschädigung bezahlt. Es dürfte erwartet werden, dass der Platz Solothurn der Frühjahrsrendezvousplatz für unsere Concoursreiter wird. Die anerkannt flotte und faire Anlage der Hindernisse, das ausgezeichnete Terrain und nicht zuletzt die schönen Gaben sichern zweifellos eine grosse Teilnehmerzahl. Jedenfalls dürfte die Springkonkurrenz in dem zentral gelegenen Solothurn eine Attraktion für alle diejenigen Reiter bedeuten, welche dieses Jahr sich dem Concoursport widmen wollen. Die Springkonkurrenzen in Solothurn bilden demnach den Auftakt zu den nachfolgenden Veranstaltungen in Thun und Luzern. Anmeldungen nimmt entgegen Kav.-Oblt. Fritz Egger, Solothurn, wosebst jede Auskunft erteilt wird. (*Morgen*.)

**Hoher Besuch.** — Am 23. April zwischen 3 und 5 Uhr stattete ein edles Storchenpärchen der kantonalen Finanzverwaltung einen Besuch ab. Herr und Frau Schnäbel sassen in voller Gemütsruhe auf der Giebelstreppe der Finanzverwaltung und schauten sich das Ding an. Gegen 5 Uhr zogen sie dann wieder unter lautem Jubel der Jugend sich über den Rhein zurück. Wir hatten leider keine Gelegenheit, von den Herrschäften ein Interview zu erbitten. Wir wissen also nicht, ob das Paar auf der Hochzeitsreise war oder dem Herrn Chef der kantonalen Finanzen eine ganz günstige Baby-Offerte gemacht hat. (*Schaffhauser Zeitung*.)

**Ein "Forellenfriedhof."** — Ueber einen wahren "Forellenfriedhof" berichtet ein Korrespondent der "Engadiner Post" folgendes: Wer nach alter Väter Sitte auf Schuhmachers Rappen die Landstrasse von Celera hin nach Samaden benutzt, der gewahrt kurz vor dem Eingang in die Oberengadiner Kapitale, rechts von der Strasse in einem Bach, der parallel zum Innkanal verläuft, eine ganze Anzahl toter Forellen. Es handelt sich um ungefähr hundert ausgewachsene Exemplare. Wenn man in Betracht zieht, dass der Inn seit längerer Zeit einen tiefen Wasserstand aufweist, und wenn man sich an die lange Kälteperiode erinnert, so kann man zum Schluss gelangen, dass das Wasser an jener Stelle bis auf den Grund zu Eis erstarrte. In diesem Falle wären alle jenen Forellen, die sich diese Stelle als Winteraufenthalt erkoren hatten, vom Eis eingeschlossen worden. Da die Forelle eine Eiskerkerhaft, wie z. B. der Frosch, nicht ertragen kann, haben all diese stolzen Schwimmer wahrscheinlich den Erstickungstd erlitten. (*Graubündner General-Anzeiger*.)

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KIBURG."

Switzerland in the early Springtime, when the Winter Sports Season has drawn to an end and the Summer Season is in preparation only, presents a spectacle worth seeing. This year especially. On account of the exceptionally heavy snowfalls, the Pre-Alps are, or at least they were last week, still covered with snow, and the whole chain of our mountains looks most wonderfully majestic just now. On days when the "Föhn" is blowing down the narrow valleys and clearing the air, the views one gets are more beautiful than at any other time of the year.

The view from the Rigi-Kulm is simply wonderful at present. I met a California gentleman at Lucerne who was visiting Switzerland for the first time, and on the eve of our ascent of the Rigi — by railway, of course — he told me that California had views which compared very favourably with the Swiss ones he had seen so far. After our descent to Vitznau he came up to me especially in order to tell me that the view he had had from Rigi-Kulm beat anything he had ever seen or heard of or even had thought possible. He goes back to California a living and enthusiastic admirer of our scenery!

Kl. Scheidegg: By rail from Lauterbrunnen. Three metres of snow round about the Kl. Scheidegg hotels, which are closed with the exception of the station buffet. Even there one could not even obtain an illustrated postcard. On the other hand, the view was magnificent; simply overwhelming in its icy grandeur.

From Spiez to Montreux, via Château d'Œux, the views of the Niesen, then the Wildhorn, Wildstrubel, etc., are awe-inspiring, much more so than in the summer, when the snow has vanished considerably.

At Montreux I saw the first young ladies wearing diaphanous summery costumes. Montreux in early Spring is already quite a warm place.

Switzerland is a country we are right to be proud of. Each season there has its new surprises for the beauty-loving tourist, and if that tourist happens, as is fortunately my case, to have a proprietary interest in the country and is one of its sons, his heart will swell more and more with deep, unfaltering gratitude that a gracious fate has made him choose his parents wisely!

#### New Method of treating Goitre.

One of the drawbacks arising from Switzerland's distance from the Sea is the prevalence of goitre. The absence of iodine in our air is now being artificially corrected, and the following new method is, according to the *Daily Express* (28th April) being employed:

The value of iodine in the prevention and treatment of simple goitre was demonstrated by experiments conducted recently in Switzerland, which is the most goitre-afflicted of all nations in the world.

More than 700 afflicted children were treated recently with iodine at Zurich, and after fifteen months of the treatment only twenty-eight per cent. showed further signs of the disease.

The treatment of the children consisted in giving them once a week a chocolate containing iodine. More than 90,000 children have been taking these tablets under medical control with considerable success.

#### Fighting Cows.

Wrestling has always been a great sport in Switzerland, and little surprise will be manifested by lovers of our country in reading hereunder that even our Cows have adopted this form of sport to settle matters which could perhaps be put to arbitration only with serious difficulties:

Nor a hundred paces from the spot where, more than a century ago, Napoleon halted before beginning his historic march across the St. Bernard Pass, a great crowd gathered recently to watch four-score fighting cows Battle for the coveted title of "Queen of Queens" for the coming year.

Situated on a road leading to the St. Bernard, the arena, with its double row of rails protecting the public, had something of the appearance of a Spanish bullfight. In the centre were planted a number of young fir trees, which the cows, on entering the ring, immediately began to demolish. Thoroughly excited, the beasts then charged down upon each other, wrestled and fought until one trotted away, this being taken as a sign of submission. Other cows were then introduced until a dozen were in the ring at the same time.

Having found opponents, the best fighters set to work to settle their own particular quarrel, after which they went in search of other rivals.

"Quitters" there were which refused combat, and these were unceremoniously hustled out of the ring. Last year's Queen, a handsome cow of twelve years, with glossy hide and long horns, again proved invincible. Pawing the ground and covering herself with dust, this bovine Amazon took her stand in the centre of the arena until she saw an opponent worthy of her attention. Then, crouching low, she got underneath her rival's head and pushed her round the ring forefoot off the ground. As in her native home on the flanks of the Great St. Bernard, where she is the undisputed queen of a herd of 200 cows, none could stand against her, and she was proclaimed victor to the accompaniment of tremendous cheering.

The queen of a herd enjoys the respect of all the other animals. She takes the best grazing pasture and chases away any but animals from her own stable.

#### A Cure for Foot-and-mouth Disease.

Talking, or rather writing, of cows, I append a further small article from the *Daily Mail* (April 25th):—

In a letter to the "Gazette de Lausanne" on foot-and-mouth disease, which is again prevalent in Switzerland, a Swiss cattle breeder says he has used the following simple remedy with infallible results during 27 years, in which time, although his herds have been frequently attacked, he has never lost a single head of cattle.

The animals' mouths were washed out with a solution composed of a kilogramme (2 1/2 lb.) of salt dissolved in a litre (1½ pints) of vinegar, while they were given footbaths containing 5 per cent. of sulphate of copper. After a few days' treatment all signs of the malady disappears, he says, and the animals completely recover.

If the cure could really be relied upon, no fortune would be too great as a reward. One hardly dares to hope, having heard of so many cures for this terrible disease, but, then, I doubt not the real cure will finally be found, and may it be this one!

#### German Tourists in Switzerland.

Quite a number of articles describe the very numerous German tourists in Switzerland and Italy. I read in the *Evening News* of April 28th, for instance, that the present number of Germans in Italy is 700,000, which, of course, is sheer rubbish. Even 70,000 would be a very high figure. On the other hand, it is certainly true that the majority of tourists I met in my three weeks' travelling in Switzerland hailed from the "big Canton." The rest were mainly English, Dutch and quite a few Japanese and Americans. The trouble in Germany is, of course, that those who can so ostentatiously spend money, all belong to the same class of people made rich by the late war, etc. I have been told that there are probably not more than 100,000 such Germans all told, and the remaining seventy million odd have to suffer for them. The "Herdengeist," so carefully inculcated into the German

nation during the forty years preceding the war, cannot, of course, be made to disappear in a few years. Otherwise the afore mentioned 70,000,000 German sufferers would be now have dealt faithfully with the 100,000 or so profiteers.

#### Spring is coming!

Spring is coming, even if you do not believe in it any more, dear reader. Take my word for it and prepare for the various pleasures and sports which will inevitably follow in Spring's wake. What is more annoying than to go home on a Saturday, firmly intending to have a good game of tennis that afternoon, and then to discover that the moths have been first and have played their own little game with your tennis trousers during the long winter months! Listen to one who has learnt from such bitter experience, and remember "Spring is coming" and expects everybody to be prepared.

#### Tennis in Switzerland.

Tennis will again form a prominent part of the Spring Sports in Switzerland, and from the *Bromley District Times* of April 23rd I take the following information:—

Tennis in Switzerland is no longer an innovation, but a much catered-for game, thoroughly well organised by the Swiss Lawn Tennis Association, which has arranged a programme of 54 tournaments for 1924. Forty-eight of these matches will be played between May and September at various centres, where excellent courts are available. Inasmuch as large numbers of English visitors during the spring and summer naturally take advantage of the facilities offered, some information as to when and where the games will be played will be of interest. Play began actually on the covered courts at St. Moritz in February, and was continued at Geneva in March, while this month games are being played at Montreux, Territet and Lausanne. In May there will be matches at Vitznau, Lausanne, Lugano, Lucerne and Geneva (two), and in June fixtures have been arranged at Geneva, Territet, Biel, Gail, Basle and Berne. The seven tournaments in July will be held at Zurich, Klosters, Davos, Flims, Vulpera, Arosa and Gstaad. Twenty-six games will be played in August, starting on the fourth and at about a week's interval. Château d'Œux, Pontresina, St. Moritz, Villars, Wengen, Adelboden, Les Avants, Gurnigel, Morgins, Mürren, Ragaz, Zermatt, Winterthur, Caux, Champy, Engelberg, Grindelwald, Interlaken, Maloya, St. Cergues, Berne, Geneva and Lucerne are the centres. In September the tournaments will take place at Lausanne and Montreux. Space will neither permit of all the tournament dates being given, nor the names and addresses of the local secretaries to whom names of entrants must be sent at least two days before the matches, but persons interested may obtain a complete list by writing to M. Louis Dufour, General Secretary of the Swiss Lawn Tennis Association at the Hôtel d'Angleterre, Territet, Switzerland.

#### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

In the absence, through illness, of Mr. Aguet, the meeting of the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Dapples, the general manager. The shareholders sanctioned the proposals of the board, already outlined in these columns, in regard to payment of outstanding arrears of interest on the preference shares. In view of the exhaustive nature of the report, which was already in the hands of the shareholders, it was not held necessary to amplify the facts already published, and Mr. Dapples confined himself to a general recapitulation of the proposals as to dividend and the expression of favourable expectations for the future, when the ordinary shareholders may hope again to receive some dividend.

At a meeting of the directors of the Society for Chemical Industry in Basle, which took place on the 25th of April, it was decided to propose payment of a dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The meeting is to be held on the 15th of May.

Figures are now available as to the total expenditure incurred by the Swiss Government and Cantons in providing subsidies for unemployment relief. From 1915 to 1923 inclusive the amount of Frs. 16,286,532 had been thus provided. The State itself was concerned in this total to the extent of Frs. 5,000,000. The largest amounts were required in 1921, when Frs. 5,492,581 was spent, of which the State paid Frs. 1,822,163.

Speaking at the meeting of the Neuhausen Aluminium Company, the chairman, Dr. Neville, stated that in general the situation could not be said to have improved during the year 1923, though it must be admitted that since the middle of last year the position in the industry was more normal. For the first time since the war the French concern in which the Neuhausen company is interested could look back upon a normal year's working. Unfortunately, the compensation due to these works for the time when they were requisitioned for military purposes has not yet been paid, and the Chairman took the opportunity of contradicting reports which have been current to the effect that this claim has been met. The Roumanian bauxite works in which the company is also interested have not yet been able to resume activities, since hitherto the Government have refused to transfer the rights of the old Hungarian concern to the Roumanian company. Speaking of the future of the aluminium industry, it was mentioned that the

period when household articles formed a principal outlet was now long past, and motors and aeroplanes were the greatest users. An increasing use is being made of aluminium for the conveyance of electric power, where copper has been used hitherto, while it is in great demand for apparatus for the dairy industry and for chemical works.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Apr. 14	Apr. 29
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903 ..	70.12%	70.37%
Swiss Confed. 9th Moh. Loan 5% ..	100.10%	100.15%
Federal Railways A—K 3½% ..	74.60%	75.20%
Basel-Stadt 5½% 1921 ..	100.25%	100.25%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892 ..	63.00%	62.00%

SHARES.	Nom.	Apr. 14	Apr. 29
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation ..	500	625	623
Crédit Suisse ..	500	635	603
Union de Banques Suisses ..	500	527	527
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz ..	1000	3135	3050
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique ..	1000	2227	2230
C. P. Bally S.A. ..	1000	1109	1105
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon ..	500	647	635
Entreprises Sulzer ..	1000	640	637
S.A. Brown Boveri (new) ..	500	324	317
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	195	200
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	130	129
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman ..	500	460	480

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