

**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:** - (1926)

**Heft:** 253

**Rubrik:** Notes and gleanings

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# The Swiss Observer

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 6—No. 253

LONDON, JUNE 5, 1926.

PRICE 3d.

## Where are you going to-day?

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### HOME NEWS

In the elections last week-end for the Landrat of Basel-Land, the Democrats, who up till now held the majority in the council, suffered a serious reverse by the loss of 12 seats. All the other parties, especially the Socialists, increased their mandates. Barely 60 per cent. of the electorate recorded their votes.

\*\*\*  
The political and administrative reunion of the two half-cantons Basel-Stadt and Basel-Land has again become an actuality, this time at the institution of the Socialist and Communist parties of the two cantons. The main difficulty seems to be the fear that in a fusion Basel-Stadt will have a preponderating influence to the detriment of the rural and agricultural population of Basel-Land.

\*\*\*  
A proposal in the Solothurn Grosse Rat to the effect that the prosperous industrial concerns should be compelled to make an annual contribution to the cantonal unemployment fund, was rejected by a large majority, the members of the labour party voting on the side of the "noes."

\*\*\*  
A questionnaire circulated by the Italian Vice-Consul in Locarno and other Italian organisations evoked considerable criticism during last week's meeting of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. The questionnaire sought to elucidate from local authorities the number and economic position of Italian residents in different districts of the canton. The rural councils so addressed were instructed by the Ticinese Government to refuse the information asked for.

\*\*\*  
Over nine million francs additional taxes have been collected in Geneva since the beginning of this year, due to a stricter application of the assessment régime.

\*\*\*  
At the international music festival which was held at Le Havre on May 23rd and 24th, "La Concorde" of Nyon (Vaud) was awarded a number of prizes in the different categories; it also gained the Sèvres vase offered by the President of the French Republic.

\*\*\*  
It has just been discovered that the alpine hut "Bernoud," on the Torberg above the Bellalp, has been swept away by an avalanche during last winter. It is barely 12 months since the cabane was erected.

\*\*\*  
Thrown against the radiator of a car, with which his motor-cycle collided, Charles Clerc, a mechanic from Evouettes (Valais), had an artery severed and died on the spot.

\*\*\*  
In crossing the railway lines at the St. Gall station, Jean Hofstetter, of Herisau, a mechanic in the employment of the Swiss Federal Railways, was knocked down by a passing express train and died from his injuries a few hours afterwards.

\*\*\*  
Cycling with some friends near Bassecourt, Paul Christe, a solicitor's clerk from Delémont, came into collision with a motor-cyclist and was killed on the spot.

\*\*\*  
Kaspar Bamert, a former Landammann of the canton of Schwyz and a well-known Liberal statesman, died in Bolenberg-Tuggen at the age of 72 after a long illness.

### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

#### Summer Time!

Our Editor has a fine sense of humour, somewhat sardonic sometimes and perhaps, but nevertheless subtle and fine. Else how could he ask me, ringing me up late on Monday afternoon, whether I could possibly let him have my "copy" on Tuesday morning? He must know that this means my rising very early on Tuesday morning, because the previous night, after work and play, I had barely time to glance through the "Gleanings," so that there is no alternative other than writing these "Notes" this (Tuesday) morning, before breakfast! Summer-time, indeed! In other words, our Editor wishes me to get the utmost out of Summer-time. His very soul shrinks from the idea of my staying in bed when King Sol has started on his daily illumination business. He (the Editor) knows that "the early bird, etc." He wishes me well. He wants his "copy." He got me up early. I am now writing all this drivel. How could I do otherwise, seeing that I have not had a sip of my early tea even? Here it comes—the tea I mean. So from now onwards things ought to improve somewhat. Let us hope so, or, I am sure, I shall lose my job!—and my readers will lose their patience. Poor long-suffering readers, who pay tuppence for the privilege of reading "Kyburg's" vapourings. Well, well, they will be rewarded in the hereafter for the goodfellowship and patience they have shewn to their fellowmen. (If you do not soon dry up and give us something better, my printers will go on strike.—Ed.) Well, having let off early morning steam, we can now settle down to work.

I am extremely happy to give you at the very outset the following:—

#### Tolerant Swiss Protestants.

*Catholic Herald* (22nd May):—

An example of religious tolerance and co-operation has just come to light in Vevey, Switzerland. The Catholic parish of the city having received a bequest of several thousand francs, the Protestant city authorities passed a measure exempting the bequest from 50 per cent. of the usual inheritance tax.

A similar example is reported from Morat, where the Municipal Council, in majority Protestant, recently voted an appropriation of 1,000 francs for the construction of a bell tower for the Catholic church of that town.

The liberality of the Protestants of French Switzerland has won the respect and high esteem of the Catholic population.

Earlier readers of *The Swiss Observer* may remember that a long time ago I related how tolerant I had found the Toggenburgers as long ago as 1900, when I was on holiday at Homberg, where the mixed choir was conducted by the Protestant clergyman and had for its president the Catholic priest. At Winterthur and many other places, happily, confessional differences are strictly confined to religious services and do not enter the political life at all.

I am happy, too, to find that the splendid example of Printing exhibited weekly by *The Swiss Observer* has drawn the attention of British printers to Swiss achievements in that art. Vide—as related in the following from the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer* (May 6th):—

#### Printers' Visit to Switzerland.

In continuance of the policy carried out for many years in encouraging senior students to travel abroad, the Department of Photography and the Printing Crafts of the City of Leeds Technical School (principal, S. E. Bottomley, F.R.P.S.) is organising a flying visit to Switzerland at Whitsuntide. We understand that the organisers will be glad to welcome any printers who are interested—especially those anxious to develop the photographic and lithographic side of colour printing. Exceptional facilities are being given for visiting, at Zurich, one of the foremost Swiss printing firms, and also a noted photogravure printing works.

The ideas underlying these tours are: (1) An opportunity for travel abroad—under specialised

guidance at very reasonable rates; (2) an opportunity for visiting some of the principal printing and lithographic houses which are world-famous; (3) an opportunity for a reunion of past and present students and friends under unique conditions.

The following is an itinerary of the tour:—

Thursday, May 20th.—Leave Leeds by the 5.30 p.m. express for London. Spend night in London.

Friday, May 21st.—Leave London (Victoria) at 10 a.m. for Paris, travelling via Newhaven and Dieppe. Arrive Paris (St. Lazare) 17.58. Cross Paris to Gare de l'Est. Depart from Paris 21.35.

Saturday, May 22nd.—Arrive Basle 6.14. Customs examination and breakfast. Depart from Basle at 8.05. Arrive at Lucerne at 9.44.

Sunday, May 23rd.—At Lucerne.

Monday, May 24th.—Excursion to Zurich, leaving Lucerne at 8.34, due at Zurich at 9.41. Leave Zurich 17.51, due at Lucerne 19.08.

Tuesday, May 25th.—Excursions in Lucerne.

Wednesday, May 26th.—Leave Lucerne for Lugano by boat, travelling the whole length of the lake, afterwards taking the train via the famous St. Gotthard Pass and Bellinzona. Arrive at Lugano in time for tea.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 27th, 28th and 29th.—At Lugano, with excursions to Italian Lakes.

Saturday, May 29th.—Leave for home via Lucerne, due London 6.45.

The approximate cost (from London) will be £15.

#### Need for Organised "Specials."

A number of my readers probably take in the *Sunday Pictorial*, and they may have read the article by that egregious writer, J. Ellis Barker, the famous British Tariff Reformer, which appeared on the 23rd May, entitled—

Says Mr. Barker:—

"... Switzerland is a small country, and it may be overrun very rapidly by the standing armies of its neighbours. In order not to be caught unawares, the Swiss have given full military equipment, including rifles and cartridges, to the able-bodied men living along the border.

If foreign troops should cross the frontier, the men of the nearest villages will gather up their helmets, rifles, and will rapidly collect at the best strategical positions near by which have been carefully selected by the military authorities, and will stop the enemy's advance." (The italics are mine.)

Cheers and great admiration for the valiant Swiss! So is the British public acquainted with what goes on in foreign lands. Such arguments and pictures are used to illustrate the need for similar wonderful organisations in this country. Arguments which have all the more force, no doubt, because the reader remembers who Mr. Barker is and how he stands for Tariff Reform and uses similarly cogent arguments for its propagation. Oh, Mr. Barker! You should also have told your public of the "Sunday Pictorial" that the Swiss are not afraid of foreign armies, because, as was pointed out to Kaiser Wilhelm when he visited the Swiss army manoeuvres before the Great War, if the invading army happens to be twice as strong, numerically, as the Swiss defending force, the latter simply shoots twice!

That, by the way and in order to augment our readers' historical knowledge, that reply, given to the ex-Kaiser by one of our Appenzeller soldiers, decided the All-Highest to give Switzerland a wide berth and to invade Belgium instead. There is nothing like Truth, Truth unvarnished and naked, when comparing historical and political notes. It gives one such a feeling of knowing where one is, or was, or might be—does it not?—and it makes our articles look ever so much more well-informed. Besides, who is there among the public, thinks Mr. Barker, to contradict me? And has anyone heard of Switzerland being invaded during the Great War? Certainly not. And why not? Because, as I am at some pains to inform you, the chaps in the nearest villages collected at the best strategical positions, helmets and rifles and all, and simply stopped the enemy's advance! What a glorious country! No wonder they have a public

VERITABLES  
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house at Loughborough Junction called the William Tell!

The *New Age* (20th May) publishes the following appreciation of—

**Ferdinand Hodler** (1853—1918).

who will interest a good many of our readers:—

The International Society of Sculptors, Painters and Gravers deserves the thanks of all art students for including paintings by Hodler in its recent exhibition at Burlington House.

Although every year a large number of people go to Switzerland from this country, Swiss art is practically unknown here. It repays study, however, and the giant among its modern exponents is Hodler. His teacher was Barthélémy Menn (1815—1893), the simple poetry of whose own landscapes is pleasant, though they have little more Swiss feeling than those of Diday or Calame. The early paintings of Menn's pupil show how good a grounding the latter received, and his individual strength appears in "The Student" (1874), and develops, through such paintings as the full-length of a Bernese girl (1880), "The New Rütti" (1887), and, of the same year, "Weary of Living" and "Old Man," which foreshadow the groups of old men, "Life Wary" (1892), and "Eurythmic" (1895), towards the composition "The Night" (1890), now in the Kunstmuseum, Berne. Adding to the last, "The Day" (1900) and the two paintings entitled "Love" (1908), we have four works together representing an outstanding achievement of modern art. The relation of the figures in "The Night" and "Love" (two couples) has an originality of balance which sets these pictures apart from "The Day," a design of five figures in a semi-circle, the stylisation of gesture of which is less satisfactory than the naturalism of form in the others. "The Night" I consider Hodler's masterpiece, for in it deep emotional comprehension is expressed in a forceful and simple way, chiefly by means of emphatic design. If these paintings stood alone they would give Hodler a proud position; but they are supported by a variety of landscape, portrait and other figure subjects, which strengthen it.

The landscapes, which gained in expressiveness as the artist grew older, are notable for combination of structure and atmosphere, and it is interesting to compare them with the landscapes of Cézanne, which often give the impression of an experiment just fallen short of success. Hodler had more confidence. His portraiture of men shows this, too. How few modern portraits does one remember! But those of "G. Navarra" (1916), "The Author Martin" (1916), and some of the artist himself, grave themselves on the memory.

It remains to mention such historical compositions as "The Retreat of Marignano" (Zurich) and "The Departure of the Volunteers" (Jena University), which, though containing less emotional appeal, mark a stage in the development of mural decoration.

The serenity of the Swiss spirit, born of the land, the people, and their history, which informs the productions of Biéler (whose wall-paintings of harvest scenes in the Musée Jenisch at Vevey are too little known), Bille, Buri, Dallèves, Segantini, Vallet (an excellent example of whose work was shown at Burlington House), and, to a somewhat less extent the work of the gifted Cuno Amlet, is experienced differently in the art of Hodler. The latter frankly reveals the roughness of the way to the summit. He explores the depths of the spirit, weary but never deflected from the pursuit of truth. Triumphant he uses as his symbol the human form, and, from the infinite variety of its attitudes, its movements and its expressions, he produces a harmony which is an echo of healthy life itself. His accent is masculine but not brutal, bitter at times but not cynical. His chief faults seem to me to be an inclination towards stridency of colour and, in drawing the figure, towards starkness of accent. Also one is irritated at times by a stressing of local peculiarities of woman's coiffure in his allegorical groups.

Hodler not only stands out in modern Swiss art, but he is a European artist who may be named with the Southern Slav, Mestrovic, and the Finn, Gallén. Deeply inspired as each has been by his native land, it is the universal appeal of his deeply-felt art that, in each case, compels attention and sweeps all narrow boundaries aside. Such a sculptured group as "Two Mourning Widows" by Mestrovic and such paintings as "Lemminkäisen äiti" (mother and dead son) by Gallén and "The Night" by Hodler are not, to anyone with the smallest amount of imaginative sympathy, esoteric things. Through them human beings speak to one another.

No less interesting, although from quite a different point of view, is the following from *Nature* (15th May) on—

**The Swiss National Park.**

Prof. Carl Schroeter of Zurich delivered the fourth Hooker lecture at the Linnean Society on April 15th on "The Swiss National Park." The movement for Nature protection is very

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All the influences of man due to shooting, fishing, wood-cutting, haymaking and so on will take time to efface, and the successional changes are being studied by a special commission of fourteen members elected in 1915 and divided into four sections, geologico-geographical, climatological, botanical, and zoological. So far forty investigators have worked in the Park. Several monographic studies have been published, and an attempt is being made to get a "complete notion of the inorganic and organic nature of our National Park."

The lecture was illustrated by a magnificent series of coloured lantern slides.

One sentence in the above, viz., "The preservation of certain beasts of prey is requisite as a hygienic measure, as they kill sick animals first," contains food for thought if applied to conditions in our human life and organisation. See what I mean?

A Liverpool reader kindly sends me a cutting from a local paper which recommends its readers to visit France rather than Switzerland, because the latter's neutrality during the war was open to question, as that paper says. My friend waxes indignant and speaks of the crass stupidity of such writers as the one who indited that article. Quite so; *mais que voulez-vous?* Visitors swallowing the journalistic fare which allows such obvious untruth and distortion of facts to be served up to its readers might anyhow not be desirable people to welcome in Switzerland, and there are, thank God, plenty who know better. Thank you, reader, from the banks of the lively Liver—no joke intended; I mean Mersey—for your greetings. Heartily reciprocated.

#### QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

		May 25	June 1
BONDS.			
Confederation 3% 1903	... 80.00	79.87	
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	101.50	101.90	
Federal Railways 3 1/2% A-K	83.15	82.10	
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	102.60	103.00	
SHARES.	Nom.	May 25	June 1
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	717	719
Crédit Suisse	500	790	787
Union des Banques Suisses	500	625	626
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	1939	1920
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3312	3340
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	2925	2945
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	460	459
C. F. Bally	1000	1312	1225
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	400	425
Entreprises Suizter S.A.	1000	987	965
Comp. de Nav. sur le Lac Léman	500	567	565
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	82	75
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	755	760

#### UN MOT DE CHEZ NOUS.

Un grand vapeur de la Compagnie Générale de Navigation au moment précis où il entre dans la rade de Genève prend feu. L'incendie met hors de service la machinerie, atteint gravement les mécaniciens et se communique ensuite à l'ensemble des soutes. Le capitaine donne l'alarme, sirène et sifflet, hurlent pour appeler le secours de terre. On met les canots de sauvetage à l'eau....

L'alerte est aussitôt répandue en ville. Les sapeurs pompiers, le long des quais, s'approchent le plus possible du bâtiment en feu qui, emporté par le courant et poussé par le vent s'est rapproché de la jetée des Pâquis. Les premiers sapeurs qui arrivent à bord par des canots automobiles, munis de masques, descendant dans la machinerie et ramènent les corps inanimés des mécaniciens que l'on va tenter de rendre à la vie par la respiration artificielle....

Pendant ce temps le bateau risque d'être emporté à la dérive. Pour l'en empêcher des "mouettes" s'efforcent de le conduire au débarcadère des Pâquis, poussant l'une à la proue, l'autre à la poupe. Tant bien que mal le navire en flamme s'en vient échouer sur les bas-côtés du quai du Mont-Blanc, en face du Kursaal, où touchant le mur il s'ouvre une voie d'eau.

En ville l'alarme a teinté comme une traînée de poudre. Tous les sapeurs pompiers sont là. Avec eux, la Gendarmerie, les Sauveteurs, les Samaritains, etc. Les services s'organisent; la foule est maintenue à l'écart, tandis que les grandes échelles Magirus s'inclinent pour créer des passerelles de la terre au vapeur. Là, un peu à l'écart ce sont les Samaritains qui installent hâtivement une infirmerie provisoire; ici ce sont des Sauveteurs qui tirent sur les cordes pour rapprocher le plus possible de terre le bateau qui déjà s'incline sur le côté.

Enfin les pompiers montent à bord, les voilà qui passent les uns après les autres sur le lieu du sinistre, ils traînent avec eux la première lance, et bientôt l'eau jaillit sur le pont embrasé. Mais cela ne suffit pas le feu a déjà pris une trop grande extension, il faut opérer par sciaffades. Le service des eaux de la Ville met immédiatement à la disposition des sauveteurs le matériel nécessaire. Et même temps on va tenter de réparer la déchirure de la coque. Ce lien de fortune est fixé tandis que les pompes à vapeur sont mises en mouvement pour vider l'eau de la cale.

Pendant ce temps les voyageurs sont évacués aussi rapidement que possible. Un sac de sauve-

tage les prend à l'arrière du vapeur et des canots automobiles les transportent à terre. Les marchandises qu'on a pu sauver prennent le même chemin. Désormais les vies humaines seront épargnées!

Soudain dans le ciel ronronne un moteur, c'est la Direction centrale de la Compagnie qui, ayant appris le sinistre, envoie directement d'Ouchy des ingénieurs et des ouvriers qualifiés indispensables pour les réparations d'urgence. L'aéroplane tourne plusieurs fois autour de l'épave en flammes puis gagne l'aérodrome.

Cependant le feu redouble d'ardeur, un fort vent du Sud-Ouest emporte au loin des débris enflammés. Un cri s'élève soudain dans la foule massée sur les quais. Un dépôt de benzine et de goudron qui avait été débarqué la veille par une grande barque vient de s'enflammer! Des débris incandescents y sont tombés et les flammes s'élevent rapidement. Les réputés extincteurs "knock-out" qui sont à portée de mains viennent relativement vite à bout. Mais à peine cette angoisse se calme-t-elle que des cris s'élèvent à nouveau. Le No. 23 du quai du Mont-Blanc vient de prendre feu de la même façon. Des locataires imprudents avaient laissé les fenêtres ouvertes et maintenant le feu a pris à divers étages. Pour comble de malheur la cage de l'escalier est atteinte et devient impraticable tandis que la montée s'écroule avec fracas.

Immédiatement un groupe de pompiers est détaché vers ce nouveau sinistre. Les dispositions sont prises, le courant électrique coupé, les lances d'eau brûlées sur la maison. Des locataires du troisième appellent au secours, on dresse pour eux une échelle Magirus, et le sac de sauvetage. Comme une locataire du premier, affolée menace de se jeter par la fenêtre, rapidement on tend un "Fleurier" qui reçoit sans heurt la craintive au moment où désespérée elle saute dans le vide. Mais bientôt les pompiers gagnent du terrain, de toutes parts l'incendie diminue, le sinistre est bientôt vaincu. Lorsque tout danger a enfin disparu, pompiers et sauveteurs se retirent, ne laissant derrière eux qu'une foule en admiration....

Quel affreux drame vous nous contez là! allez vous nous écrier! Rassurez vous tout cela n'est qu'un merveilleux spectacle!

Voilà ce que les habitants de Genève verront en ce beau dimanche matin, 13ème jour du mois de Juin!

Voilà le spectacle totalement inconnu jusqu'à ce jour que l'Etat-Major du Bataillon des sapeurs pompiers de Genève a décidé d'offrir pour son grand exercice d'été à la population. Aucun cadre ne pouvait être plus grandiose que notre rade!

Et je vous assure qu'il "drame" vaudra bien les "simalacres" que nous avons tous admirés par une belle soirée d'été, l'année dernière, au Stadium de Wembley....

"UN SUISSE QUELCONQUE."

#### Commander Byrd's Flight over the North Pole and Swiss Industry.

It is interesting to note that Swiss industry has played an important part in connection with the flight across the North Pole, in so far as the Magneto fitted to the Wright engines of the Fokker aeroplanes were "Scintilla" Magneto, which are manufactured at Soleure, Switzerland.

Switzerland may well feel honoured that the "Scintilla" Magneto was chosen for use in an attempt of such historical importance, and she has every reason to be proud in having contributed to this successful and remarkable achievement, which, in the future, will undoubtedly rank as a notable landmark in the history of aviation.

It will also be remembered that "Scintilla" Magnets were used for the world flight to the West Indies and Japan, accomplished by Colonel de Pinedo last year.

#### SWISS TRAVEL NEWS.

From the official information issued by the Swiss Tourist Office we reprint the following items which will be of interest to our readers:

*Railway Service London-Switzerland.*—On account of the English coal strike, the 14.0 service from London to Boulogne has been cancelled until further notice. As the 16.0 service from London-Victoria is maintained, a daily train Calais-Basle will be established, with arrival in Basle at 6.42 from May 20th, which will have connection at Basle in the different directions.

The through carriages Calais-Pale-Lucerne-Gottard-Milan and Calais-Belfort-Berne-Loetschberg-Milan will be maintained.

Among the improvements obtained by the new time-table in force since May 15th, a new fast train, which affords an excellent day-trip from Geneva to Paris and London via Lausanne-Vallorbe, deserves being pointed out. Leaving Geneva at 5.28 and Lausanne at 6.30 (restaurant-car from Vallorbe), Paris is reached at 14.45 and—alterations due to the English coal strike reserved—London (via Boulogne) at 22.50 the same evening.

*Innovations in Swiss Postal Passenger Service.*—The following innovations will be in force for the coming tourist season:

Return tickets with 20% reduction are now available also for the Alpine and Season Postal

Services. They are valid 10 days. It is highly recommended, however—and during the summer it is indispensable on the Alpine Postal cars—that the travellers have their seats reserved in advance.

The circular tickets, as well as the tickets issued by Travel Agencies, are now valid as regular tickets without any further formalities, as is already the case on the railways. During the summer it is essential to have the seats reserved in advance by a Post Office.

Breaks of journey, on the ordinary Postal Services, as the passenger pleases and without any formality; on the Alpine and Season Postal cars, however, the breaks of the journey have to be marked on the passenger's ticket before departure. The continuation of the trip from an intermediate station cannot always be assured on the Alpine Postal Services.

The reservation of seats in advance has already been undertaken by every Post Office; from now on the principal Post Offices will at the same time also issue the tickets for any Postal trip.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

##### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:

Mr. Traugott Haefeli, Schmiedrued: "Mussolini's Life." Miss Maria Thöny, St. Moritz: "The Flora in the Grisons." Miss Marie Lamm, St. Moritz: "Newspapers." Mr. Max Buchwalder, Biberist: "Chess." Mr. Walter Berger, Berne: "Coal." Mr. Fritz Arbenz, Zurich: "Poland." Mr. Ernest Uhlmann, Zurich: "Some Thoughts of the Financial and Economical Conditions in France." Miss Margrit Thommen, Zurich: "Telephone." Mr. Kurt Leemann, Berne: "Shipping and F.O.B. Agents in Connection with Lighterage." Mr. Christian Stettler, Spiez: "Russia." Mr. Fritz Bigler, Berne: "Montreux." Mr. Emil Bühl, Sempach: "Bridging the English Channel." Mr. Otto Wenger, Freienstein: "Fashions." Mr. Guido Marti, Breitenbach: "Watch Industry 1900-1926." Mr. Ferdinand Ruppmann, Herrliberg: "The Public." Mr. Heinrich Isler, Winterthur: "Hyde Park during the Strike." Mr. Carl Briner, Zurich: "First Impressions." Mr. Willy Kern, Berne: "Modern Music." Mr. Joseph Eng, Olten: "Protective Duties and the Swiss Clerks."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:

"Should our Christian Religions be united under one Denomination?" Proposer: Miss Marie Ant. Joris, Sion; Opposer: Miss Emmy Messerli, Basle. "Should England give some of her Colonies to other Powers of Europe?" Proposer: Mr. Max Mühlberg, Basle; Opposer: Mr. A. Stalder, Zurich.

#### A PROPOS DE LA 'FETE SUISSE.'

Le cours naturel des choses, dans ce monde, est fait de changements constants; les vieilles disparaissent, de nouvelles surgissent, et l'oubli s'empare bientôt de ce qui était hier. Heureusement que jusqu'ici, la "Fête Suisse" a échappé à ce sort. Mais plus les années passent, et plus il est nécessaire de rappeler ses origines et de dire à la jeune génération suisse, à Londres, quelle fut et demeure sa raison d'être. "Eh! quoi, dans quel but célébrer une fête suisse au mois de Juin, alors que notre Fête nationale est le 1er Août?"... Voilà la question qu'on entend poser souvent.

Vous voulez savoir pourquoi? Tout d'abord, parce que la "Fête Suisse," appelée jadis "Thé suisse," est une tradition bien plus ancienne que la célébration du 1er Août qui date de 1891 seulement. Elle est de 1862, et cette année-ci nous célébrerons la 57e—la différence dans les chiffres est due à la guerre, pendant laquelle force fut de la discontinuer.—Or une tradition pareille est chose qui a son prix, sa valeur. C'était une caractéristique de notre Colonie de Londres. C'eût été grand dommage de ne pas la reprendre, après la fin du cataclysme, car nous avions le droit d'en être fiers. Entre-nous, je ne serais pas étonné que d'autres groupes de Suisses, expatriés comme nous, ne nous l'envient un tant soit peu!

C'est qu'aussi, elle est une des rares occasions où les Suisses des quatre coins de l'immense métropole peuvent se rencontrer, et de pareilles occasions, il ne faut pas les négliger. Ce fut même la pensée dominante de son initiateur, feu le pasteur E. Pétavel-Ollif, qui, il y a plus de 60 ans, souffrait de voir ses concitoyens dispersés et solitaires et avait longtemps désiré les grouper tous ensemble au moins une fois l'an. Et qu'étais le Londres d'alors à côté du notre, aujourd'hui?

Une précieuse occasion donc de nous retrouver tous ensemble, dans une bonne atmosphère bien helvétique, et à une époque de l'année qui convient à tout le monde, voilà ce que nous désirons qu'elle demeure notre "Fête Suisse." Et celle de cette année-ci ne trompera pas votre attente, nous osons le croire. Bien plus, vous aurez le plaisir d'y voir quelque chose que les précédentes n'ont point encore connu, et ce sera... mais non, ne vendons pas la mèche à l'avance; venez-y, si vous voulez savoir ce que c'est! — Je vous donne donc rendez-vous au Jeudi 17!

Un membre du Comité.