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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

MR. HAAB'S SUCCESSOR.

It is expected in political circles that the Socialistic Congress, which will take place in Bale on the 30th November, will claim a participation of their party in the Federal Council.

BERNE.

A lunatic incendiary, who had escaped from the asylum at Münsingen, has set fire to the farm buildings belonging to Johann Prutiger at Oberhofen. The loss is very considerable.

A brutal case of murder is reported from Wiler near Innertkirchen. Miss Lina Jaggi, aged 25, was found strangled and dishonoured. She had been attending a dance and was last seen in the company of a chauffeur named Ferdinand Grogg, who has been arrested as there is strong circumstantial evidence against him.

The dependance hotel Bellevue at Interlaken, situated between the station and the hotel Schynige Platte, has been totally destroyed by fire.

BALE.

On October 9th the 12.55 p.m. Bale-Chur express collided just outside Bale station with a goods waggon. The latter was being shunted and bore down on the express at a pointed angle. One side of the dining car was ripped open and plate glass splinters flew in all directions. Only the fact, that there were few diners and that the express had not yet gathered its full speed, prevented serious injury to passengers.

Two young mechanics, employed at a type-writer works at Wallstrasse, were cleaning type-writers with benzine regardless of the nearness of an unprotected gas flame. Suddenly there was the crash of an explosion, and 16 year old Hans Hunziker ran into the street with his clothing alight. He was badly burned.

A tragi-comedy followed the arrest of a beggar by a policeman in the St. Johannvorstadt. Near the St. Johanntor the beggar managed to escape, and the policeman started in hot pursuit. Unfortunately his sword got mixed up with his legs, and sent him sprawling! The "National-Zeitung" wants to know, why our policemen must be encumbered with a sword which, in ordinary circumstances, they must not use, and which, in special circumstances, acts as the proverbial "spoke in the wheel."

AARGAU.

The poison drama at Suhr has ended with a life sentence for Mrs. Verena Lehner, who was found guilty of murdering Adrian Meyer and Mrs. Schmidli, and of defrauding their heirs of the monies left.

SOLOTHURN.

Mr. Alfred Hartmann, Commercial Managing Director of the L. von Rollsche iron works at Niedergerlafingen died on October 7th from heart failure on the way to his office. He was born in 1859, entered the works at Choindez at the age of 20, and gradually worked his way up to the Directorate, of which he became a member in 1921. He was closely associated with educational and benevolent activities and for 21 years was a Cantonal Councillor.

VAUD.

The well-known pianist and former Prime Minister of Poland, M. Paderewski, is staying at his beautiful country seat near Morges. He has slight phlebitis as a sequel to an operation recently performed upon him by two Swiss medical men. It is expected, however, that unless the unforeseen is expected, however, that unless the unforeseen happens, M. Paderewski will be completely recovered in two months' time.

ZOO AT GENEVA.

Our friends, the Genevese, have found that there was still one thing lacking to make their town perfect, and they have come to the conclusion that they must have a Zoo. The various circuses which visit the town from time to time are now proving insufficient for the zoological edu-

cation of the younger generation. A committee will be constituted very shortly for the purpose, and as a suitable ground has already been found, there is no doubt that before very long the roars of lions and tigers at feeding time will strike terror into the hearts of the bravest.

GRAUBUENDEN.

Segantini's widow, who lives at Maloja, is to receive an annuity of Frs. 2000 from the surplus revenue of the Engadiner Museum at St. Moritz.

THE GRAPE HARVEST.

The "Vendanges" are in full swing, and one has to look back a good many years to find throughout French Switzerland such satisfactory results. The grapes are plentiful and the sunshine enjoyed during August and September will make this crop a memorable one as regards quality.

As a contrast to the last few years, the vineyards are peopled with gay crowds and the only draw-back, from the producer's point of view, is that owing to the quantity, the prices are much lower, but even then everybody should be satisfied.

At Neuchatel the "Fête des Vendanges," has been a great success and the procession this year had a very striking character and was greatly admired by all present.

For the second time the Swiss and foreign journalists were officially invited and expressed themselves in very complimentary terms on the organisation of this festival.

WEATHER NEWS.

Heavy rain has fallen in Switzerland recently causing the rivers to rise, and extinguishing the forest fire on the Calanda. Snow has fallen in the Saint-Gothard region.

A severe storm broke over Berne on the night of Tuesday the 8th, and the evening radio programme from the broadcasting station was abandoned owing to lightning striking the principal pylon.

Heavy snowfalls are reported from Alpine regions where over 1-ft. of fresh snow is recorded, and in western Switzerland snow fell down to a level of 2,400-ft., causing a great drop in temperature. This is particularly untimely as the vintage crops are excellent this year, and garnering is now in progress in the lower districts.

A TRAVERS LA SUISSE.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique has offered us the most wonderful treat by showing this excellent film free of charge to anybody who takes the trouble to go and see it at the St. George's Hall in Tottenham Court Road at the appointed hours. Three chances were offered us, one of which—on Wednesday afternoon—has passed and the other two on Saturday afternoon (at 2 and 4 p.m.) will still be open to most readers when receiving this issue of the *Swiss Observer*.

To judge by the surprisingly large attendance at the performance on Wednesday afternoon, it need not be feared that many members of our Colony will miss the opportunity of seeing all that is most beautiful and valuable in our home country judiciously presented on the screen within a happy hour and a half. The New Helvetic Society and its Foreign Secretariat are to be congratulated and thanked most heartily for the idea—and the happy execution of it—of bringing our home-land vividly near to all her sons and daughters who are living far from it through the modern means of cinematography.

For many of us the opportunities of visiting Switzerland in the flesh are all too rare. Amidst the turmoil of life and never ceasing impressions in a foreign world our memory of the beauty of our country and, more still, of the unpretentious and steady virtues, the industrial efficiency and the cultural excellence of our people tends to get dimmed in time. The N.S.H. film freshens up that precious memory better than anything else could, short of an actual stay in Switzerland. And not only the visual memory is revived at the N.S.H. show, but also the oral one, as all through the performance a gramophone plays tune upon tune from our rich treasure of folk songs, yodels and more serious Swiss music. For this additional treat we have to thank Mr. Newman, who has brought over fifty records to the film show from his large stock of Swiss records at his Gramophone Salon near Marble Arch (see adverts in the S.O.).

The Ed.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Fore!

A MEETING OF SWISS GOLFERS IN LONDON.

Several Swiss Golfers in and about London have expressed a keen desire for a meeting to take place during the next month or so, when a Medal Round might be played in the morning and a foursomes or four ball or several such matches in the afternoon. It has been proposed to play one day during the week, because most golfers wish to play on their home-course during the week-end, or attend to their family duties. The Sydenham & Dulwich Golf Course, with its fine Club-House perched high on a Hill from which on a fine day one can see right over London, has been chosen provisionally, but other Courses might be considered to meet the wishes of participants.

Will Swiss Golfers—full handicap allowances will be given so that Rabbits, like Kyburg and others may have a chance too!—kindly send a post-card to Kyburg, c/o the Publishers of the S.O. mentioning their handicap, their home-course and the week-day which would suit them best, or possibly alternative week-days, so that the whole matter may be considered and some really fine meeting of Swiss Golfers be arranged. Now, don't wait, but sit down at once and send in that post-card, please, as otherwise the whole scheme is likely to be bunkered from the start. Thank you!

Are Cinemas bad for Children?

The question, of course, begs the answer, because there are Films and Films and while some are quite goody-goody, others may be thought to be rather unwholesome stuff for the juvenile mind. However, even this idea seems to be open to question, as witness the following extract from the "To-Day's Cinema," 5th Oct.

I remember that a little less than a year ago a nasty knock against the crime from the cinema crowd came from the little county of Vaud in Switzerland. The chief of Police there conducted an investigation into the statistics of child crime in relation to the film, and the results of his research knocked the legend mongers sky high.

The Headmaster of the County of Vaud Classical College now follows the analyst by a constructive attitude. At the annual meeting of the Swiss Secondary School Masters at Lausanne University recently he read a most thoughtful paper on the use of the cinema as an educational instrument.

He had examined the findings of a tremendous number of scholastic authorities in collaboration with the views of collegians themselves, and he was convinced that the film had never been fully utilised in teaching the sciences, especially those dealing with motion.

An interesting argument brought against his thesis was that the cinema does not stimulate the imagination but merely satisfies it. Reading on the other hand forces the creative instincts to work . . . That may be with the film as pure representation. But I have known far more cases than I should care to enumerate when the film has been riled because it was suggestive rather than merely imitative. It's all a matter of manner.

Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The Times 5th Oct.

The Diet of Liechtenstein Principality has approved a Government proposal to bring into force in the Principality the Swiss laws with regard to traffic narcotics. New legislation based on the school laws existing in Switzerland was also approved, and the Diet decided to enact laws in accident insurance on the model of the Swiss legislation on the matter.

After the War, at the time of the economic and financial breakdown of Austria, the 10,000 inhabitants of Liechtenstein adopted Swiss currency, and a strong party advocated joining the Swiss Confederation. That movement came to an end when Switzerland declared that she was ready to help her small neighbour

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but would not accept Liechtenstein as a member of the Confederation since the Swiss were unanimously opposed to any extension of Swiss territory. In 1921 an economic union was concluded between Liechtenstein and Switzerland. The Swiss Government was entrusted with the care of administering the Liechtenstein post, telegraph, telephone, and Customs services, and Swiss diplomats were called upon to represent the Principality abroad.

The Principality was in financial difficulties after the War, and in 1922 the Budget showed a deficit of £17,600, which was paid off by the late Prince. The economic union with Switzerland resulted in an improvement of the situation in the following four years, but, in consequence of the devastation caused by the big Rhine floods in 1927, and of bad management of the Savings Bank, the situation was last year described as hopeless, and a political crisis followed. The Democratic Government was compelled to resign, new elections took place, and the electorate returned a bourgeois majority. The Bourgeois Party did well, and the financial position improved so much that the accounts for 1928, which the Diet approved last week, showed a surplus of £4,320. It was at first supposed that the Bourgeois Party, which stands for complete independence, would denounce the Treaty of Economic Union with Switzerland, but the recent decisions of the Diet show that the Government, by adopting Swiss legislation, intends to make the union more intimate.

Strangely in contrast to Mr. Orbaan's article on Artistic Switzerland, reproduced under separate heading, and bringing us back with a rush to the problems of transport and its attendant noises, is the following from the *Observer*, 6th Oct.

The Motor Nuisance in Switzerland.

The enormous increase of motoring is becoming a problem in Switzerland. It is found that the dense traffic drives the pedestrian off the road, and a number of smaller resorts are beginning to suffer severely. The need has now been recognised of making special "wandering-ways" well out of the reach of the dust-clouds of the roads. Appeals are being made to the cantonal Governments, the tourists' offices, the Swiss Alpine Club, and the various walking organisations, to lend their assistance.

To the same category belongs the movement to preserve the lake borders for public use. The custom of building week-end cottages by the wayside is growing so rapidly that the prices of these building sites are going up by leaps and bounds. In the neighbourhood of the larger towns the general public has long been excluded from the lake borders. It is proposed to ask proprietors not to prolong their railings and hedges to the very water mark, but to leave sufficient room for walkers to pass.

Lest some English Reader, not knowing any better, jumps to a wrong conclusion, I might remind him that there is plenty of room in Switzerland for the Wanderer who wishes not to see or hear any motor-cars. I myself have wandered for hours among delightful dales and over fir-clad hills, not to speak of the Alps, where never a motor car penetrated. But, I have also walked from Alpnachstad to Stansstad along the Brünig road, and that was sheer torture and involved concentrated energy by way of jumping aside every now and then to let some petrol-fumes-snorting monster pass by. How differently we look upon motor-cars, when we are sitting at the wheel of one and again when we are mere pedestrians?

There is no doubt that WINTER is coming, but there is much more doubt as to our ability of getting away to enjoy winter-sports among our native mountains. Hence, it may come as a welcome innovation, this

Ski-ing in London.

Morning Post, 9th Oct.

Each succeeding winter sees a larger army of English people journeying to the mountain resorts of Switzerland and Scandinavia to indulge in the harder forms of ice and snow sports. Among these ski-ing is becoming constantly more popular. The thrill—and the danger—of submitting one's will to the practically unhampered force of gravity is in itself one of the keenest joys that open-air recreations can afford; but the enjoyment becomes immeasurably greater when one learns how to direct this self-induced power of momentum. Not a great many of the English votaries of ski-ing have at present much opportunity of mastering the rudimentary principles of the art, and considerable interest will, therefore, be aroused over the news that London may soon have an indoor ski-ing academy, with a slope, a leap, and a run, where amateurs may get all their bruises over before adventuring to the real snowfields.

Truly there is no end to enterprising proposals which help us to forget that we live in a city. It only remains for someone to hire the Mappin Terraces to give ocular demonstrations of mountain climbing by famous Alpine guides in order to make our education complete.

Health Lessons from the Swiss Lakes.

Daily News, 9th Oct.

There is something new to report from Locarno, as I expected, but it is not at the simple, delightful plage, which is still as cheap and good as ever. Let us not suppose that the only use to be made of a lakeside is as a plage; nor that small children, for instance, do not require separate and special provision. I have written here about the three (really four) new plages on Lac Léman, and may add that a new one is to be made at Geneva; and that every little Swiss mountain resort which has a drop of open water is now making and announcing a plage therewith.

But the Sunlight League is not merely concerned to provide new jolly pleasure places in our parks and elsewhere, nor would Mr. Lansbury have received us as he did, and gained such wide support thereafter, if the interests of small children, especially the least fortunate, had not been foremost in our minds.

Such children are being served on this lovely lakeside, not at the plage, but at another point, where this afternoon I found a modest enclosure above the door of which were the words

KINDERERHOLUNGSHHEIM.

CASA DI CURA PER BAMBINI.

It can only be called a modest enclosure, for it is entirely unpretentious; but the wood is neatly finished and its wall facing the lake supports a shallow roof. It is quite palatial, at that, compared with the hideous, roofless boardings now on the ornamental lake of the greatest city in the world: boardings which can surely not have been seen by the critics who ridiculously fear that the Sunlight League is desirous of "disfiguring the Serpentine."

However, the purpose of this new spot at Locarno is my present point. It is a "Children's Healing Home." Its cost, to make and run, must obviously be too small to notice at all. It gives a number of delicate children the three kinds of bath (I hope the reader remembers my formula: "Baths of water are good, baths of air are better, baths of light are best") and it provides one more instance of the kind of thing we should do beside the water of our parks.

Several years ago I described here yet another type of use to which the supreme natural agents of life and health are being put by the leading nations of the Continent, and not least in Switzerland. Next to the public bathing place at Pulley, on Lac Léman a mile or two from Lausanne, is a small enclosure where you may see a host of happy kiddies, under the charge of a young woman. Inquiry shows that this is simply the ideal day nursery. The parents of these children are employed outside their homes, and the children have to be looked after somewhere.

In like case in Bradford, or any other northern industrial town of our own country, you might, not long ago, see the children deposited in the care of a "minder" by a queue of mothers on their way to the factory, and picked up again by the mothers on their way back. No one was to blame, but everybody was to blame, for a state of things obviously mad and bad and sad. If, however, in our present inchoate civilisation, whether in England or Switzerland, it is necessary, or thought necessary, that children must be minded in day nurseries because they cannot be at home, then at least we should try to provide the best conditions for them. A splendid Association (117, Piccadilly, W.) of Day Nurseries does its best in England. At Pulley we may see the ideal day nursery, where no epidemics are spread, where the cost in money is minimal, and where all the fundamentals for the healthy development of the children are provided.

Lives there a man, not eaten up with stupidity and prejudices, so that he no longer lives nor is a man, who can imagine a better use for the Royal parks than to provide ideal day nurseries for our nation's children? Yes, indeed, I ask for this also; as well as mixed bathing for adults. And have we forgotten the School in the Sun, established at Leysin in 1910, and described by myself all over the British Isles ever since 1921?

Ought there not to be Schools in the Sun in our Royal parks? Of course there should: and elsewhere clinics—beautifully screened by the gardener's art—for ill children and others, perhaps, for instance, under the direction of the physicians and surgeons of St. George's Hospital, who will find results easy in Hyde Park which are impossible at Hyde Park Corner.

GESCHÄFTS-ANZEIGE

Anstatt durch Zirkular, gestatte ich mir auf diesem Wege meinen verehrten Landsleuten anzuzeigen, dass ich das von Herrn F. W. Rühmann anno 1887 gegründete, sich eines sehr guten Rufes erfreuende,

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