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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

PARLIAMENTARY CHANGES.

A great change in the political situation has been made by the decision of the Socialist party conference at Basle by a large majority to demand participation in the Government. The extreme Left elements of the party have now for the first time been beaten by the more moderate Socialists, who are for improving the conditions of the working-class by democratic Parliamentary methods. This victory is mainly the result of the action by the leaders of the trade unions. On Monday last the Second Chamber elected as President of the Chamber in 1930 one of the leaders of the moderate Socialists.

Next week two vacant Liberal seats are to be filled on the Federal Council. For years the composition of the Council has been four Liberals and two Catholics. The Socialists and the Peasants are now demanding one seat each. The Liberals are prepared to give up one of the two seats, but while the Left wing of the party are for giving it to the Socialists, the Right wing would choose the Peasants.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Friedrich Mülli, cooper, domiciled at Gotthelfstrasse in Zurich-Wiedikon, was found lying on the Adlikon-Regensdorf road. He was unconscious and, on examination at the hospital, his skull was found to be badly fractured. So far, nobody has been traced who could explain the mystery.

Grinder Hangartner, of Niederhasli, escaped from the Dielsdorf prison and forcibly entered a house at Mettmenhasli, where his wife and child are living. People in the house were awakened by groans and found Hangartner in the act of strangling his wife. The ogre disappeared and was discovered in another room, where he made a similar attempt on the life of his 4 years old child.

Bankprokurist Schmid, of Zurich, was driving along the Limmatquai, when he suddenly swerved across the road and seemed unable to stop. His car pushed three women through a plate-glass window into a furrier's shop. The victims were very badly cut about the legs, and they are now lying in hospital in a serious condition. The driver appeared to be under the influence of drink, and the police have taken the matter in hand.

N.Z.Z.

BERN.

The Central Committee of the Bernese Bauern-, Bürger- und Gewerbe-Partei has unanimously decided to lay claim to the vacant Bernese Federal Councillor's seat and recommends the election of National Councillor Minger.

The traditional Zibele- and Chachelimär, formerly the excuse for considerable horseplay, has passed calmly this year. A considerable number of police, uniformed and otherwise, was massed in the main thoroughfares, and the batons were kept ready for all emergencies. In spite of all this, and one might have believed oneself in a town under martial law, no incidents occurred.

A bus accident happened near the Rosengarten on the line Berne—Ostermundingen. A cyclist, swerving to give right of way to the bus, fell on the icy road. The bus driver put on the brakes, but the vehicle skidded on to the cyclist. The cyclist, who was killed, was identified as Fritz Rolli, aged 32, of Bümpliz.

N.Z.Z.

SOLOTHURN.

Shunter Hermann von Dach slipped while crossing the lines at Lyss and fell, landing under a carriage. He lost both his legs and died in hospital.

N.Z.Z.

BASEL.

The canton Basel-Town's population at the end of October numbered 156,685, of which 148,068 live in the town itself. Building oper-

ations are going on everywhere at a steady pace, and the employment returns are satisfactory.

Sly humour characterizes a burglary at the A.C.V. shop in the St. Johannvorstadt. The "customer" used a ladder to get at one of the windows overlooking the Rhine, although access without it would have been an easy matter. He then twisted the iron bars and smashed the window. He did not steal anything, but left the shop in disorder. He seems to have made an exit through the door, anyway the ladder was left against the window. This happened within 100 meters of the St. Johann police station which, so the newspaper adds, is however known to give no cause for uneasiness.

A queer sort of amusement took place in a restaurant in the Spalenquartier. Some guests passed part of an afternoon by throwing to each other the saucers put under the glasses. One of these saucers struck the right eye of a woman spectator and caused a most serious injury. N.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The recent elections for the Town Council have brought about a return to the old conservative majority, at the expense of the communist party whose troubles seem to be getting into a chronic state.

N.Z.Z.

ST. GALLEN.

Mr. Eduard Sturzenegger, citizen of Trogen and living in St. Gall, has celebrated his 75th birthday by making donations amounting to 250,000 Fs. The St. Gall "Stiftung für das Alter" receives 50,000 Fs., and the similar institution in Appenzell the sum of 25,000 Fs. A like sum has been paid to the Schweizerische "Stiftung für das Alter," and 50,000 Fs. each to the welfare fund of Mr. Sturzenegger's firm and to the fund for supporting aged hand-machine embroiderers.

N.Z.Z.

GRAUBUENDEN.

Unusual election practice in various communities was discovered after the Democratic party had lodged a protest against a recent election return made by Tinzen. It appears that in a good many communities no ballot boxes are provided, that the voting papers are simply put on a table at the polling station, or that they are collected from house to house. In some cases the voting papers of all the members of the same family were brought by women or children. At the recent election of a National Councillor 112 electors at Tinzen recorded their votes and 11 have not voted, not even by proxy. Yet it has been established and proved, that 120 voting papers were handed in. The cantonal authorities have decided to take stringent measures to stop such malpractice and to ensure exact control.

N.

MARIAU.

Two suspicious looking men passed through Stein and were stopped by a policeman, who asked to see their papers. Their reply was the presentation of papers by one of them and two revolver bullets in the policeman's body from the other. While rushing away from the scene of their misdeed, they encountered a postman and, believing him to be another policeman, also fired on him, fortunately without hitting. The postman grappled with the would-be murderer and, with the help of others, managed to secure him. His companion was also captured.

N.

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS.

In order to save our readers the trouble of sending out personal cards with seasonable greetings to their friends in our Colony, the *Swiss Observer* is this year reserving space—under an appropriate heading—for the insertion of names and addresses of readers who wish to convey their greetings in this simpler way. Lists will be published in next week's special issue (14th December), and the following two numbers, the charge per insertion is 2/6. Prepaid orders must reach our offices on Thursday morning of each week at the latest.

NOTA BENE!

On December 14th, another Special Issue of the *Swiss Observer* will be broadcast so as to reach the whole Swiss Colony in Great Britain. This will be a unique opportunity for advertisers to secure the Christmas trade. Please communicate in good time if you wish to secure space, which can be booked at the ordinary rates for serial advertisements.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Is the World going to be blown to bits from Monte Generoso?

Daily Express, 3rd. December, 1929.

Heroic attempts to split the atom by means of a high tension current are being made on the famous Monte Generoso, which towers above the Lake of Lugano. These experiments were begun by Herr Arno Brasch, Dr. Fritz Lange, and Herr C. Urban, three famous Berlin scientists, but the danger of erecting an experimental station at the height of 5,590 feet has already cost the little group the life of one of its members. Herr Urban slipped and fell over a precipice last year, and was immediately killed.

"We want to split the atom," said Herr Brasch to our correspondent, "by means of a high tension current."

"We had two problems when we began. First, that of getting the necessary high tension, and, secondly, that of finding a tube capable of carrying the enormous high tension current. We could have got this current perhaps in the laboratory, but only at a cost of many millions of marks, which we could not afford, so we had to find some other way, and hit on the idea of harnessing lightning.

"We built an experimental station on the famous Monte Generoso, which is the storm centre of Europe, and constructed a cable which is earthed one end and is insulated at the other by means of a double chain of 160 steatite insulators weighing together 5,280 lbs."

"What will happen," I asked, "if you split the atom? Will the world fly to pieces as some predict?"

Herr Brasch laughed and shrugged his shoulders. "We cannot say," he said, "but it is very unlikely that the world would do this, although it is not absolutely impossible. Still, we do not even know if we will split the atom, and if we do it is a step in the dark.

"We are in the position of the man who first made fire, and if we split the atom the energy obtained may be as revolutionary as was the discovery of fire.

"The German electrical industry realises this, and we have been able to try out our experiments only by the generosity of the leading German electrical firms. We have also a small State grant."

Some might object to the heading of the above article, saying that it might harm Switzerland by frightening away its tourists! I do not think so, because if atomic energy is ever discovered or rather tamed, we shall all live to benefit by it. If we are blown to bits, all of a sudden, we shan't know afterwards what's happened, shall we?

So, presuming that Switzerland will still be where it has been for ages, we may still be interested in its Health Resorts and the following, from the "Queen" 20/11/29, may bring news to many who have not heard much about sun-cures yet:

In view of the important part played by ultra-violet rays in the King's recovery from his serious illness, it may be of interest to know something of the wonderful cures effected by sunlight in thousands of cases of tubercular and similar diseases at Leysin, Switzerland, under the auspices of Dr. Rollier, whose fame is now world wide.

This clever and far-seeing physician has been advocating the practice of heliotherapy at high altitudes since 1903, and maintains that this is the only form of treatment calculated to cure surgical tuberculosis in its varying forms, at whatever stage in its development, and at any age, although naturally, the best results are experienced with very young children.

It has long been a matter of common belief that tuberculosis was merely a local ailment, but now it has been discovered that it is a general disease involving the entire organism of the body. The formation of the tuberculous foci is generally preceded by a general failing of health, which means that the tissues are less able to withstand the bacillus of tubercle which it is now considered certain is inherent in every child.

This disease, therefore, is rightly regarded as the white scourge, and is of all ailments the most dangerous and insidious.