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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### THE COST OF LIVING.

The index figure of the cost of living according to the Federal Department for Industry, Trade and Labour is the same as in the previous month: 158 (June 1914=100), as compared with 161 at the end of June 1929. In opposition to this slight decrease is to be considered a slight increase in the cost of foodstuffs caused through the change from old to new potatoes. The index figure for foodstuffs is at the end of June 1930 151 compared with 150 at the end of May 1930 and end of June 1929.

#### NEW EGG-MARKING ORDER.

The Federal Council decided on several changes in the regulations for foodstuffs. As regards the stamping of eggs it was decreed that the cases from abroad must be marked "Import" or must show the place of origin. If cases once are opened the seller has to mark each egg with a stamp "Imp." if they are not already marked with the stamp of the place of origin. Through this the stamping at the frontier falls away so as not to increase the price and also to avoid delay. This stamping is to come into force on Nov. 1st.

To complete this order home produced eggs are also to be marked with a particular stamp.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The 50-year-old Mrs. Willmann lost her life in consequence of an unfortunate accident which occurred last Sunday in a restaurant at the Bränerstrasse. An old muzzle loading pistol which was stolen by a party of motorists in the Canton of Baselland was shown round and the trigger was pulled many times, without anything happening. The proprietor of the restaurant then put it away. In the evening the same party came back and one of them asked for the pistol back, as he would like to show it to some friends. Again several times the trigger was pulled, but when it reached the hands of a young chauffeur Willi Hofstetter who also manipulated the trigger a shot rang out and hit Mrs. Willmann in the head causing her immediate death. N.Z.

#### BERNE.

The Organising Committee of the Zika in Zurich (the international cookery exhibition) addressed on March 27th two months previous to the opening date, a request to the Executive Council of Berne for permission to sell Tombola Tickets also in the canton of Berne. Now, three weeks after the closing of the exhibition, there arrives a reply from the Bernese Police Department dated 17th of July, in which this Department informs the Committee that this request cannot be dealt with as it was not stamped. Should the Committee require that the application should go forward to the Executive Council, it would have to send 1.80 Frs. in stamps. This is referring to the Tombola which was drawn on June 28th.

#### NUMME NUET GSCHPRAENGT.

F.

Looking for Edelweiss above the Grütisch Alp the 23-year-old John Hasler of Madiswil (Berne) fell over a rock face of over 40 metres and was instantly killed. N.Z.

#### LUCERNE.

On July 21st a violent explosion took place in the sewers in the neighbourhood of the Railway station in Lucerne. The lids of the man-holes were thrown several meters into the air. In the station itself a large pointed flame with immense force was visible. A tremendous detonation was heard and caused a panic. People came rushing out of their houses. The explosion was caused by a spark from a tramline igniting the gases in the sewers which were formed through the flushes from garages containing oil and petrol. Happily no one was hurt. St. G.T.

#### SISSACH.

The meeting of the inhabitants of Sissach has taken a new stand towards a new industry. Through the difficult economical position in Germany the toy manufacturing firm Fortuna of Frankfurt A/M., which manufactures purely for

## OUR NATIONAL DAY.

The following National Councillors have favoured us with special messages on the occasion of the 1st of August celebration in London.

**DR. HÄBERLIN,**  
National Rat, Zurich.

Ein glückliches Geschick führte den Unterzeichneten vor einigen Tagen nach London und daselbst in den Schweizerklub. Der Empfang der wenigen Begleiter und Begleiterinnen durch hiesige Landsleute war ein herzlicher, freundlicher und zugleich interessanter. Aus dem kurzen Begrüssungswort durch den Präsidenten Herrn Indermaur gieng hervor, dass unsere l. Landsleute in der Fremde treu und dankbar mit ihrer schönen Heimat verbunden bleiben und jede persönliche Beziehung zu den Landsleuten gerne pflegen. Alle Wünsche an die Adresse der l. Heimat giengen dahin, neue, junge Kräfte zu senden, welche in die Fussstapfen der Alten eintreten und die Plätze würdig besetzen können, welche das gastfreundliche London den Landsleuten trotz der schweren Zeiten zur Verfügung hält.

In den Dankesworten für den so freundlichen Empfang kam die Freude zum Ausdruck, dass auch in London die Söhne Helvetiens in vielen Branchen geachtete Stellen einnehmen, dank ihrer treuen und gewissenhaften Arbeit und dass sie dadurch die erfolgreichen Propagandisten im Ausland werden. Wenn die Schweiz zu Hause durch ihre friedliche Politik, wenn sie durch ihre ruhige Kultur-Arbeit im Dienste des Volkes eine geachtete Stelle in der Europäischen Völkerfamilie einnimmt, so sind es die ächten Schweizer im Ausland, welche allerorts dem Namen Ehre machen können. Eine grosse Verantwortlichkeit aber auch eine ehrenvolle Aufgabe erwächst ihnen daraus und Pflicht der Heimat ist es, ihnen nahe zu bleiben und ihnen diese schöne Mission zu erleichtern. Klein sind unsere Verhältnisse, keine unbeschränkten Möglichkeiten winken dem strebenden Manne zu Hause, aber eine nie wankende Grundlage bietet die kleine Schweiz, indem sie jedem Landeskinde eine gute Erziehung gibt, indem sie die bestmögliche Entfaltung allen Talenten zugänglich macht und indem sie die Verantwortlichkeit auf alle Schultern legt und damit alle zur Pflichterfüllung erzieht. Es wird darum stets die ernste Sorge der Bundesbehörden bleiben, unsere vielen Landskinder im Auslande tatkräftig zu unterstützen und bei ihnen und ihren Nachkommen die Liebe und die Anhänglichkeit lebendig zu erhalten.

Schwere wirtschaftliche Zeiten stehen uns bevor. Wir werden sie aus eigener Kraft überwinden müssen. Welch beruhigender Gedanke, wenn das kleine Schweizervolk weiss, dass es dabei nicht weniger auf die Ausland Schweizer rechnen kann als im Jahre 1914, als sie ohne Besinnen dem Ruf des Vaterlandes folge leisteten.

Liebe, treue Schweizer und Schweizerinnen in London! Wenn wir am 1. August in Basel, Genf, Glarus, Tavannes und Zürich unseres Geburts-tages dankend uns erinnern und unsere Gläser erheben zum Wohle und Gedeihen unserer l. Schweiz und wenn wir erneut der schönen Heimat Treue geloben, dann wissen wir, dass viele l. Landsleute in London mit uns feiern und dass wir für alle Zeit zusammen gehören.

export, has decided to establish itself in Switzerland.

After having tried in several parts of Central Switzerland it was decided to come to Lissach and the following proposition was submitted to the District Council. The Commune of Sissach has to bear half of the cost of the building land which amounts to 22,000 Frs. (2.50 Frs. per square metre). This amount is guaranteed to the commune in that it has to be paid back when Fortuna sells the property within 10 years or closes down the works. This proposition was unanimously accepted by the inhabitants, as it also contains a clause that the trades people of Sissach should have first consideration in the construction of the works and that in the employment of workers natives should have preference. N.Z.Z.

#### FRIBOURG.

L'Académie Française has conferred "le prix d'éloquence" on M. Morreau, professor at the University of Fribourg. J.S.

#### GENEVA.

Prof. Adolphe D'Espine, a well-known surgeon and lecturer at the Medical Faculty of the

**RUGGERO DOLLFUS,**  
Consigliere Nazionale.

Ella mi chiede di rivolgere, a mezzo del Suo pregiato giornale, un breve saluto patriottico alla colonia svizzera di Londra, in occasione del 1. agosto. Lo faccio tanto più volentieri in quanto i miei colleghi della delegazione svizzera presso l'Unione Interparlamentare ed io vivamente deploriamo di non poter fermarci a Londra sino all'anniversario natalizio della Patria. Sarebbe stato per noi un vero piacere l'incontrarci con i membri di cotesta fiorente colonia ed il portar loro il saluto della nostra culla comune.

Per quanto mi concerne, mi sarei fatto una gioia speciale di stringere la mano ai numerosi Ticinesi che, sulle sponde del Tamigi, tengono ben alto il buon nome della Svizzera italiana. E, con nostalgia soddisfatta, avrei ricordato gli anni di gioventù e l'accoglienza in cotesto "City Swiss Club" in cui, un po' sperduto nell'immensa metropoli straniera, avevo ritrovato una famiglia, come ogni svizzero vi ritrova un piccolo lembo del paese natio.

Fondatore dell'associazione parlamentare per la difesa degli svizzeri all'estero, membro per lunghi anni della commissione degli svizzeri all'estero della Nuova Società Elvetica, ho seguito sempre, con viva simpatia, lo sviluppo di cotesta fiorente colonia. So quale contributo di lavoro, di forza industriale essa apporti al paese che la ospita in tutti i rami dello scibile umano, ma specialmente nel commercio nell'industria e nella finanza. Danda un esempio splendido d'intelligente applicazione al lavoro, gli svizzeri di Londra non solo danno prosperità a sé stessi ed alle loro famiglie, ma aggiungono prestigio al nome dell'Elvezia e con ciò servono la Patria non meno di chi, rimasto entro i suoi confini, si addestra a difenderla, ove occorresse, con le armi. Ed inoltre lo svizzero all'estero, ricordando sempre con infinito affetto il natio loco, tien viva, più che talvolta non avvenga in Patria, la fiamma dell'amore per la terra dei nostri padri, per le nostre libere istituzioni, e la tramanda ai figli.

Ond'è che quando, tra pochi giorni, la sera del 1. agosto, vedrò sfavillare, dalle sponde della mia Castagnola, i fuochi commemorativi sul Bré e sul Salvatore ed i mille lumi del lido luganese illuminato a festa, rivolgerò un fervido, augurale pensiero ai compatriotti di Londra, che nelle stessa ora, riuniti ad Hendon, commemoreranno la Patria e che in quell'istante più che mai vorranno essere, con noi Ticinesi e con gli svizzeri tutti, "ein einig Volk von Brüdern."

Londra 23 luglio 1930.

National Councillor H. SANDOZ, TAVANNES, has promised us a message which would appeal to our French speaking members of the colony, but we regret very much that at the time of going to press same has not reached us.—(Ed. S.O.).

Geneva University, died at Coligny at the age of 85. The defunct was author of many works on children's diseases, and during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870/71 was in the service of the French Red Cross. N.Z.Z.

#### TICINO.

The Gymnastic Society "La Fides" which took part at the international gymnastic competition at Luxembourg, has been accorded the 1st prize. A large gathering of inhabitants of Lugano welcomed them on their return to their native town. J.S.

#### VALAIS.

Another serious flood of mud has occurred near St. Maurice. It was brought down from the higher regions by the St. Barthelemy stream. The main railway line on the Simplon route was soon covered with almost solid mud and the train service was interrupted. Later it was re-established by transporting the passengers by road to the next station. Several houses had to be evacuated. J.G.

#### VAUD.

M. Henri Grobet-Roussy, a well-known industrial died at Lausanne at the age of 66. The

Continued on back page.

The magnificence of the reception at the Guildhall, in all its glory and its medieval splendour, was a revelation to the Swiss. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress being particularly attentive to the Swiss Parliamentarians gave them additional pleasure and satisfaction.

There is, however, no word sufficient to express the delight of the Swiss Delegation with the Dinner which the Swiss Minister and Mme. Paravicini gave in their honour. M. Paravicini's interest in every member and Mme. Paravicini's renowned charm as a hostess impressed everybody greatly. In addition the Delegation formed the conviction that the Swiss in Great Britain have a point to which they can rally at any time and find true Swiss friendship. M. Paravicini's kind thought to invite leading personalities to meet the Delegation, amongst others the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, was much appreciated.

The occupation of the various Swiss Parliamentarians being numerous, they could not be everywhere at the same time, though they would have liked intimate contact with the Swiss Colony in London.

However two of the Delegates, alt Nationalrat Weber and Nationalrat Tschudy visited the Swiss Mercantile Society and School and carried away an excellent impression. Another reception which gave great pleasure was at the Union Helvetia, where the President, Mr. Indermauer, received, with eloquent words, Nationalrat Dr. Haeblerlin and Mme. Haeblerlin, Conseiller National Sandoz and Mme. Sandoz, Nationalrat Dr. Scherer and Mme. Scherer and Nationalrat Tschudy. The evening spent at the Union Helvetia was a great success in the opinion of all present.

It may be mentioned that at two meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union a Swiss Delegate was in the chair, a proof of the esteem Swiss enjoy also in international affairs. We can add that alt Nationalrat Dr. Studer, President of the Federal Insurance Tribunal in Lucerne, was appointed to speak about National Minorities. His thesis gave occasion to a very heated debate.

We might rightly say that the Swiss Delegates are taking with them a most wonderful souvenir of London and English hospitality and, we also hope, of the few Swiss of the London Colony they came into contact with.

We are also justified to add that the "Swiss Observer" which was distributed amongst the Delegates, created a stir and we hope that our weekly paper may obtain, in future, the help from our Home Country, which it so much deserves.

J. H. SPEICH.

### "SCINTILLA" MAGNETOS.

Following the two recent successes of which we informed our readers, we hear that SCINTILLA LTD., have again to register splendid achievements with their magnetos.

The third European Mountain Race held at Shelsley Walsh was won by Stuck on an Austro-Daimler racer, who at the same time created a new speed record for this race with a SCINTILLA magneto fitted to the engine. Meanwhile the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd home at the Grand Prix d'Europe held at Francorchamps, all Bugatti machines, and the 5th, an Imperio machine, were all fitted with SCINTILLA magnetos.

### AN ANNIVERSARY.

The papers are at present full of reports about the terrible earthquake disaster in Italy. This brings back to mind the catastrophic earthquake which took place in the Canton of Valais exactly 75 years ago.

The seat of the disturbance was then at Visp and Stalden, but the shocks were felt all over Switzerland and as far as the north of Germany. At Berne, Bienne, St. Gall, and Zurich the church bells started to ring and chimneys fell in. On July 25th, 1855, shortly after 1 o'clock p.m. a strong shock was felt, which brought down the ceiling of the "Dreikönigs-Kirche" at Visp, whilst St. Martin's church showed some large cracks. On the following day several more intense shocks took place with the result that the steeple of the church came down, destroying the whole building.

The population hurriedly left their dwellings, whilst their houses tumbled down. Several people were injured by falling bricks and timber, but fortunately no loss of life occurred. All the houses at Visp, at that time about 130, were partly destroyed or made uninhabitable; after a thorough investigation by the authorities only six houses were found to be fit to rebuild.

Visitors to Visp can still notice to-day cracks in the brickwork of some of the buildings which were caused by the earthquake of 1855. The villages of Stalden, Grächen, St. Niklaus and Zermatt also suffered heavy damages. A curious fact to notice was, that houses made of stone withstood the shocks less well than the wooden ones. At St. Niklaus nothing was left except the

rectory. Throughout the valley the mountain side showed considerable clefts. It was reported that the springs at Bad Leuk registered an increased temperature, and where the land was formerly flat new hills were formed.

A rather tragic-comical incident occurred. The communities of Ems and Leuk had a law suit pending, lasting several years, regarding a mountain forest. This wood completely vanished, no doubt much to the disgust of the lawyers briefed on the case.

A committee, under the Presidency of General Dufour, was formed in order to provide the population with housing accommodation. N.Z.Z.

### ECONOMIC NOTES. FOREIGN TRADE.

From April to May while imports have declined by 4.9 million francs, exports have increased by 1.5 millions. On the other hand by comparison with the month of May 1929, imports have decreased by 15 millions and exports by 6.9 million francs. To properly appreciate these figures one must, it is true, take into account the drop in prices which has occurred in the interval, notably in wholesale prices which have dropped fifteen points in twelve months as is shown below.

In May the balance of foreign trade amounted to 211.3 million francs for imports and 163.1 millions for exports. This shows a deficit of 48 millions or 22.8 per cent. against a deficit of 54.6 millions or 25.3 per cent. for April.

With regard to imports, here are the figures for the principal groups; we give the figures for the preceding month in brackets:

Foodstuffs, drinks and tobacco: 43 millions (43). Raw materials for Agriculture: 6 millions (8). Fuel: 16 millions (14). Raw materials for industry: 46 millions (46). Manufactured goods: 52 millions (55).

We notice from the statistics that from May 1929 to May 1930 the import of automobiles has dropped by 22 per cent., those from the United States by 25 per cent. and those from other countries by 16 per cent.

With regard to exports, the total figure is divided as follows amongst the chief categories:

Foodstuffs: 14.1 millions (14.1). Textiles: 52.2 millions (53.7). Machines and metallurgical products: 42.7 millions (39.8). Watch-making 23.4 millions (23.5). Druggists' and chemical products and colouring matters: 14 millions (12.9). S.I.T.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Miss H. Bietenholz, Gossau, St. Gall: "My impressions of England and the Englishman." Mr. H. Brunner, Zurich: "Something about English People." Mr. E. Gurtner, "Empire Free Trade." Mr. R. Wickart, Zug: "White Coal or Electricity." Mr. H. Vogt, Biel: "An Outline of the Swiss Watch Industry." Mr. Bahnik, "A Journey to the Seaside." Mr. R. Naef, "Astronomy." Mr. H. Brunner, "Schiller and Goethe."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Is War Inevitable?" Proposer: Mr. W. H. Heiniger. Opposer: Mr. R. W. Moeschlin.

Mr. Wilson of the League of Nations Union delivered a lecture on the League of Nations on Friday last at the Swiss Club. The lecture evoked a great deal of interest as the subject—the aims of the League and what it has already achieved—is one that is very dear to the heart of the Swiss. It is to be hoped that Mr. Wilson may be prevailed upon to address us again in the near future. The lecture was followed by an excellent musical programme in which amongst others Mr. Bossart Junior and Miss Neeser were undoubtedly the stars.

On Saturday, July 25th 1930, the students were taken to the Zoo accompanied by Mr. A. Levy, Headmaster of the S.M.S. College.

### Home News—(Continued)

deceased was for 25 years manager of the iron works in Vallorbe, and a member of the Grand Council for 30 years. From 1925-26 he was a member of the National Council. He represented Switzerland at many international congresses. N.Z.Z.

### LAUSANNE.

On Friday the 25th July at 9.15 a.m. a terrible accident occurred on the flying ground at Lausanne. The Commander of Civil Aviation, Captain Strub, was about to fire a rocket to indicate the landing place to the competitors of the Round Europe Flight, when the rocket suddenly exploded and the whole charge went into his face. Half of the face was torn away and a part of the brain was laid bare. He was taken to hospital in a hopeless condition but died before arrival there. He is father of two children. F.

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aura lieu le MARDI 5 AOUT au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démonstrations.  
Admissions. | Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française.)

(Les services ont de nouveau lieu à l'église, 79, Endell Street.)

Dimanche 3 Août 11 h.—M. Marcel Pradervand. Les cultes du soir seront supprimés dès le 27 juillet.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798).—Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30—12 h.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2  
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 3. August 1930.

11 Uhr vormittags: Gottesdienst.

### KREMATION.

Kremiert wurde am 25. Juni, der am 1.10.1905 geborene HANS FANKHAUSER von Trub (Bern); gestorben am 25.6.1930. Die Asche wurde in der Schweiz beigesetzt.

### ADRESSAENDERUNG.

Alle Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen, Religionsunterricht u.s.w. sind an Pfarrer C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Telephon: Chiswick 4156) erbeten.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, August 5th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting at Pagani's (see advert.).

Wednesday, August 6th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, August 28th, at Sp.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE und SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Lecture by Professor Dr. C. Schröter of Zurich with over 100 coloured lantern slides on "Naturschutz in der Schweiz und der Schweizerische National Park," at King George's Hall. Admission free.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at the Range (see advert.).

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