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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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FEDERAL.

FELIX CALONDER NOT TO RESIGN.

It is reported that, on account of the incessant exhortations on the part of the Council of the League of Nations, M. Felix Calonder, President of the German-Polish Arbitration Commission, has withdrawn his resignation.

DAY'S REST A WEEK BY LAW.

The National Council passed, last week, a bill providing for a compulsory period of 24 hours rest each week in trade and industry.

SWISS LOAN FOR HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Commercial Bank has placed with a syndicate headed by the Swiss Bank Corporation Hungarian Seven per cent. Bonds to the extent of 15,000,000 Swiss francs. Subscriptions for the bonds opened at 98.

NEW SWISS HOLDING COMPANY.

Details are now available regarding the Swiss holding company which has just been formed to take over the industrial participations of the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt in Vienna. The new company is to be known as "Continental Gesellschaft für Bank und Industriewerte" and is to have its headquarters in Basle. Its object is "to participate in banking and industrial undertakings, principally on the Continent of Europe."

The immediate purpose is to take over a part of the industrial and banking holdings of the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt, which comprise interests in every branch of activity and are widely distributed over Europe. The capital is 60,000,000 francs in 40,000 fully paid shares and 80,000 shares 50 per cent. paid up.

It is expected that the company will proceed at an early date to a bond issue, which is likely to total 40,000,000 francs, of a Five and a Half per cent. type and having a currency of 15 years, with an option of redemption after 10 years.

The company is being formed under the auspices of an international group of bankers headed by the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt in Vienna, S. M. Rothschild in Vienna, Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd., in London, and Warburg and Co. in Amsterdam. The Board, which is under the Chairmanship of Mr. Armand Dreyfus, of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has among its members representatives of the various participating concerns. Mr. Albert Palache represents the interests of Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN BERNE.

The Federal Council has allocated an amount of £76,000 towards the expenses of an international exhibition of popular art, to be held at Berne in 1934.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S TRIPS THROUGH THE ST. GOTTHARD TUNNEL.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the St. Gotthard Tunnel, the Swiss Federal Railways arranged specially reduced fares for school children travelling in parties over the line. Schools from every part of the country took advantage of this offer, and on certain days as many as 5,000 children passed through the tunnel. Up to the end of June already 60,000 school children had made the journey.

LOCAL. ZURICH.

After the fiasco of the Communist rally in Schaffhausen the contingent from Zurich tried to demonstrate on their return. They met some of their stay-at-home confrères and held a rally of their own on the Helvetic Platz. Hair-raising stories were told of how the military motors, laden with soldiers and machine guns, were rushed through the streets; how the comrades had been beaten and ill-treated by them until blood ran in streams, but that in spite of all the Communists had not only gained a moral but a very effective victory. The Bourgeoisie had at last realised that Communism is getting more and more powerful even in Switzerland, and that it would become a force which would repay a thousand-fold the shameful acts of the murderers of the Proletariat. From the plinth of the

Helvetic fountain a youngster exhorted his Communist listeners, now that the moment had arrived, to "go for the whole lot" and to establish a Swiss Soviet; the opponents must all "be done in" and no respite should be given until the whole of the miserable opposition had been "done away with."

But the beautiful evening was irresistible and instead of "demonstrating" the crowd of about 300 dispersed after a revolutionary song.

N.Z.Z.

In the night of Saturday-Sunday last a motorist reported himself to the police after having placed his car into the garage.

He stated that he drove some people from Zurich to Baden and that suddenly in Neuhof, near Baden, his off-side rear window was smashed. As he noticed some fellows in front of him, he thought that it was an act of animosity and drove on. On his return journey he noticed at Neuhof a motor car and some fellows standing around it. He did not stop. On arriving home and putting his car into the garage he looked at the smashed window closer and found blood and hair adhering to the frame work of it and he came to the conclusion that an accident must have happened.

On investigation by the police it was found that one of the fellows had lurched towards the quickly moving motor car and with his head had smashed the window. The man had his head split open and fell dead into the road. He is Robert Scherz, 31, single, of Düringen, Berne, who, a week previously, had started work on the new Limmat power works in Wettingen. The motorist, who at first was detained on remand, has been liberated.

St.G.T.

BERNE.

The Canton of Berne is issuing a 4 per cent. loan of 25,000,000 francs for the conversion of the 5 per cent. loan 1919. The issue price is 98s per cent., and the bonds are redeemable by 1948.

The Jungfrau Bahn showed receipts for the month of August of 448,000 Frs. as against 517,000 Frs. in 1929, and expenditure in both years of \$3,000 Frs.

The amounts for January to August are: receipts 119,830 Frs. against 255,576 Frs. in 1929 with an expenditure of 457,000 Frs. in both years.

V.

That quadruplets should celebrate the 50th anniversary of their birth is not a very common occurrence. But this extraordinary jubilee was commemorated by the four brothers and sisters Gehri in Münchenthalersee on September 26th. Oscar, Berta, Rosa and Anton Gehri were born on the 26th of September, 1880, in Oberlinbach. Their father was the artist Charles Samuel Gehri, who was well-known through his pictures representing Bernese customs and was one of the illustrators of Zahn's Edition of the works of Jeremias Gotthelf.

St.G.T.

GRIMSEL STAUSSE.

Since last week the old Grimsel Hospiz has disappeared in the waters of the new lake, which has already gained a considerable size. The once clear waters of the Grimsel lakes are now muddy and discoloured, but are filling up the basin which has been artificially formed.

N.Z.Z.

BASELLAND.

In the night of September 18th-19th a wire was drawn across the road just outside the village of Lausen on the Basel-Olten road, evidently with the intention of attacking any oncoming motorcyclist. A saloon car was, however, the first to encounter this obstacle, suffering only slight damage.

The Basel section of the Swiss Automobile Club has offered a reward of 250 Frs. for the apprehension of the perpetrators. Last Saturday the cantonal police from Liestal arrested the 21-year-old Hans Merz and the 16-year-old locksmith apprentice W. Blatter, both from Lausen. The two have admitted the deed, but state that it was done in a spirit of youthful exuberance.

St.G.T.

FRIBOURG.

The death is reported of Dr. Félix Rémy, doyen of the medical corps of the canton of Fribourg, at Bulle at the age of 82. He accomplished his studies at the Universities of Berne and Paris and had an extensive practice at Bulle, where he was highly esteemed for his skill and aimability.

Continued on back page.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

R.101.

A very gallant party of Englishmen have laid down their lives in yet another effort of mankind to wrest some of Nature's secrets from her jealously guarded bosom. We can but mourn their untimely loss; we can but silently wonder; we can but offer our mute sympathy, our heartfelt condolence to their bereaved families.

Even Time, the great healer, will hardly ever be able to efface from our minds the anguished shudder that ran through us when the dread news came through. Truly, the R.101 was not so much an English adventure as a human effort and as such really affecting all mankind, and the whole human family feels bereaved by the terrible loss of these gallant men.

Ours is not to reason why. Ours is but to praise the Almighty that He in His wisdom has imbued the human race with the sacred fire of searching and probing into Nature's secrets and that He has, in all times since the beginning of man's reign on earth, lit that fire again and again and so enabled mankind to proceed from step to step, always upwards!

And among those who have actively fought that battle against the elements, the heroes of R.101 will ever be remembered and in giving their lives for a cause which, whatever one may think, must always be a great endeavour and a noble effort, they have carried that sacred duty of search a step further, and the knowledge and certainty that their beloved ones have died in active service for mankind as a whole, must be some consolation to the dear ones they have left behind.

We Swiss who, among our native mountains, are ever beset by Nature's dangers and who know what fighting the elements can mean, we salute these gallant heroes, we shall cherish their memories and we feel, as human beings, proud of their valour.

The Matterhorn takes its Revenge.

Sphere, 27th September:

Among those who live in the high valleys of the Alps there is a saying that the Old Man of the Mountain always wins in the end—that the White Death awaits those who become irreverent or grow *blasé* over his tolerance. Guides who have grizzled among the peaks and defiles of the Bernese Oberland, the Valaisan Alps, and the Mont Blanc and Jungfrau ranges seldom, when sober, speak disparagingly of the mountains—they have seen them triumph far too often.

The recent tragic (mountaineers find it heroic) end of the career of Hermann Perren of Zermatt, ace of contemporary guides, just as he was about to end his mountaineering days, is a typical example of the *Odysseys* which are yearly recorded, yet seldom sung on the printed page, among the mountain folk.

Perren was born in the mountains, he lived his life in the mountains, and died in the mountains. At the age of sixty he had conquered the famous Matterhorn, king of Swiss peaks, 143 times. His goal was 150 ascensions, after which he had promised his family and friends that he would retire from the sport—and business. He knew every cranny and crag of the rugged and forbidding peak against which he had so many times matched his instinct and intelligence amid adverse conditions.

But, like Alexander Burgener, around whom they still weave legends in the Oberlands, although two decades have passed since the Bergli hurled an avalanche down upon the intrepid guide and his companions, enveloping them in the white death that is so omnipresent, Hermann Perren could not fight the unknown. He may have passed over the same spot a score of times in the days gone by, yet when a treacherous *pont de neige* opened at his feet he dragged his companion, to whom he was

CITY SWISS CLUB.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,

at the

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

The holidays are over and once again I must tackle the task of finding something to say about the meetings of the C.S.C. and endeavour to amuse the readers of the S.O. or at any rate help to fill up part of a column and thus lighten the labours of our worthy Kyburg. Oh, Kyburg, now that the days are getting rapidly shorter, I like to esconce myself on Friday nights in a comfortable armchair with a good cigar and peruse the columns of the S.O. with the fond hope that one day there will be a few more notes and not so many gleanings.

If it were not that I am afraid of being accused of presumption and of being puffed up with false pride I would venture (That will do, ek, please get on with your account of the meeting.—Ek.)

Very well then. Will young and enthusiastic journalists please take note of what befalls them when they try to deliver the dope in order to fill up space.

The holidays are over and four and forty members attended the October meeting on the 7th, filled with so much zeal and energy that the meeting did not come to an end until nearly 10.30. Among the guests was Dr. Pierre Lansel who we were glad to welcome to the Club. Two new members were elected. There were no resignations.

A discussion then took place about the Annual Dinner and various suggestions were made and the necessary credits voted.

The next item on the Agenda was the question of the Cinderella dances and it was decided that these should be held at the May Fair Hotel on Saturday, January 17th and February 21st, 1931, and a date to be announced later was provisionally reserved for the month of March. Members will remember that the Cinderellas which were held last Season at the May Fair Hotel were a great success and it is hoped that every effort will be made to make the dances next year still more successful.

No other matters being brought up for discussion, the meeting came to an end at 10.30 as already stated. The evening was decidedly animated, the Treasurer was kept busy making lightning calculations in order to be able to reply to the questions put to him and at times I noticed a worried expression on the sympathetic countenance of our President who is to be congratulated on the skill and courtesy with which he presides over our meetings.

I understand that the articles by my good friend Dr. Eckenstein, "Five Weeks in America," which appeared recently in the *Swiss Observer* are to be published in the form of a booklet, and the profits, if any, are to be divided between the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Société de Bienfaisance Française.

I understand that he intends adding to them, but I sincerely hope that he will not be tempted to become prolix, and will be warned by the awful fate which has befallen ek.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. Kung, "A Journey to Edinburgh." Mr. Kuellering, "Cider." Mr. Wirz, "Hitler Movement."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Is Suicide ever justifiable?" Proposer: Mr. Wolf. Opposer: Miss M. Schaer.

Last Friday, October 3rd, the students of the S.M.S. College had an very interesting lecture by Mr. Locke on "English Character" and the psychology explaining it. The lecturer has had much experience in lecturing to students of various foreign universities and he had evidently spared no pains in preparing his very interesting and exhaustive analysis of English character. He showed us that the English climate and repeated invasions by and assimilation of foreign peoples had very considerable influence upon national character, and accounted for the adaptability, the reserve, the industry and the love of sport and the "sporty" attitude generally. After his clever analysis of the character of the various "classes" of English people, we realised that they are indeed a mixed race, with a mixed character, and that they are, at their best, not perhaps such a bad "mixture" after all.

The vote of thanks proposed by the "Chairman," Mrs. Paull, was heartily and ably seconded by Mr. Paravicini, one of the senior students. Loud and long applause expressed to the lecturers the thanks and appreciation of the students.

On Saturday, October 4th, the students, under the leadership of Mr. John W. Klein, visited the ancient city of St. Albans. First of all they viewed the beautiful old Cathedral, one of the most venerable and picturesque in England, then they ascended the quaint old Clock Tower, from which a magnificent view of the city was obtainable. St. Michael's Church was next visited, and the famous memorial to Lord Francis

Bacon, who is buried here, was much admired. St. Albans is full of curious old houses and gateways that remind you of a distant past. The recent excavations of the Roman capital of England, Verulamium, awakened great interest. Finally a very pleasant walk along the delightfully romantic little river Ver and in the country (where delicious blackberries were to be found in great profusion) completed a most agreeable day.

Home News—(Continued)

GENEVA.

M. Henri Adrien Naville, honorary professor at the University of Geneva, has died at the age of 85.

AARAU.

The criminal court of the Canton of Aargau sentenced a 25-year old burglar of Hagglingen to 3 years penal servitude. Immediately after his release from the prison in Lenzburg in August he went to Dottingen when he committed another burglary. He entered the Station Hotel at midnight by forcing a window, and with an axe and a crowbar removed the safe that was built in the wall, placed it on a wheelbarrow and took it into the open. He broke it open and took the contents amounting to 2,500 to 3,000 Frs. N.Z.Z.

NEUCHATEL.

An explosion took place on the premises of the well-known firm of Messrs. Ammann & Co., Wine Merchants at Neuchâtel, destroying over 20,000 litres of wine. The damage is estimated at about 100,000 francs.

SCAFFHOUSE.

On October 1st about 50 or 60 comrades assembled in front of the Ruben school to demonstrate against the police arrangements that were made to stop the well advertised rally. Later they went towards the H.Q. of the Cantonal police to demand the liberation of the arrested Communists. The few Cantonal policemen on duty on their part demanded that the square should be cleared and, as the order was not obeyed, made use of their hydrants, to which the demonstrators replied with paving-stones.

In the meantime a troop of town policemen arrived and made use of their truncheons, clearing the square and arresting four of the ringleaders. At half past ten all was quiet. N.Z.Z.

VAUD.

The death is reported of Colonel J. J. Kohler in Tour de Peilz at the age of 70. He was a director of the chocolate factory founded by his father, and later on joined the board of the Nestle-Peter-Cailler-Kohler combine.

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(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 12. Oktober 1930.

11 Uhr vorm: Gottesdienst u. Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr: Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen u. Religions-bzw. Konfirmandenunterricht sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Telephon: Chiswick 4156).

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, October 15th, at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Monthly Meeting of the London Group, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Report by the President on the Auslandsschweizertag, 30th and 31st August, 1930.

Saturday, November 1st from 7 to 12 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Wednesday, November 5th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELLE: Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, November 7th.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, November 12th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, November 28th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball, at May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

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