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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.

#### ZURICH CONVERSION LOAN.

The City of Zurich intends to issue a 4 per cent. Loan of 25,000,000 Frs. at 9½ per cent., for the conversion of the 5 per cent. Loan of a similar amount, falling due in May. The City of Winterthur will issue a 4 per cent. Conversion Loan of 5,000,000 Frs. at 9½ per cent.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Next year's contribution towards the "cost" of the League of Nations has been increased by 52,000 Frs. and is now 518,000 Frs.

#### SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

Satisfactory traffic returns for the first nine months of the present year are published. Altogether, 54 million passengers were carried—an increase of 840,000 against the same period last year. On the other hand the goods traffic with 14.1 million tons shows a slight falling-off. The total receipts show an increase of about seven million francs which, however, is more than compensated by an increase in the working expenses of 9.4 million francs.

#### BANQUE GENERALE POUR L'INDUSTRIE ELECTRIQUE.

The net profits of the Banque Generale pour l'Industrie Electrique amounted to 2,280,000 Frs. for the business year ended June 30, 1930, against 1,980,000 Frs. for the previous business year. The dividend remains at 5 per cent.

#### X-RAYS AND OUR RECRUITS.

Following a proposal by the military department, Röntgen apparatuses are to be installed at the more important recruiting centres; this additional examination is expected to detect unhealthy recruits who are likely to become inmates of military hospitals.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The unemployment figures for September compare unfavourably with those for August, and still worse with those of September, 1929. Unskilled labour, however, seems to be in demand in most of the trades, especially agriculture; there is also a lack of workers in the tailoring and show manufacturing industries. The hands employed in the building and textile trades (embroidery), show a further decline; the watch industry seems to have righted itself, but unemployment amongst the musicians is on the increase on account of the "talkies."

### LOCAL.

#### LUCERNE.

Three office apprentices, aged 19, 16 and 17 years, a few days ago disappeared without a trace. Two of them managed, in some way or other, to cross the frontier without any papers, whilst the older one had a passport. All three went to Hamburg, from where they sent word to their parents that they intended crossing the ocean to America. In the next few days these young adventurers will, however, be brought back to familiar surroundings again. N.Z.Z.

#### AARAU.

The Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education from all over Switzerland meeting in Aarau had before them a proposition of the Swiss General Shorthandwriters Society, backed by the Swiss Shorthand Teachers Association and the Committee of Examiners for Shorthand Teachers, that the teaching of shorthand be made compulsory. This proposition is in regard of all schools. The 7th and 8th school years should be the time for starting it. A period of one year at the rate of two hours per week should be devoted to the subject. The Congress, though viewing the proposal favourably, could not see its way clear to accept the suggestion for compulsion, but recommended its acceptance on a voluntary footing. St.G.T.

#### APPENZELL.

In Walzenhausen about 200 unemployed from Appenzell have met to take measures towards meeting the critical situation in which they are placed. A resolution was passed in which it was stated that the Regierungsrat and the Communal

Authority were too slow in commencing relief work, and that the help they so kindly received from the Appenzeller Vorderland and from private sources was, however, sufficient to relieve only a small part of the great suffering. In view of the steadily increasing unemployment and the approaching winter, the Regierungsrat is requested to call the Grand Council for a joint meeting, so that the cantonal relief works could be started at the latest by the middle of November, and also that the private unemployment insurances which have already done more than they ought to have done, should be supported by the communes. N.Z.Z.

#### BADEN.

The Badener Arts and Craft School, which is attended by 2,000 students (owing to the large industry in that town), is being reorganised. Up to now 43 teachers have taught as part time work, mostly in the evenings. On the proposition of the Federal Inspectors four principals have been elected so that the school will now be a regular day school. N.Z.Z.

#### LIVIGNO.

An interesting occurrence is reported on the Swiss-Italian frontier. For several days past a large eagle could be observed flying from his nest, which he has on the Swiss side of the frontier, over on to Italian territory, there to fetch his prey in the form of sheep. In the space of a few days he fetched five sheep from the Livina valley and brought them over the border, there to devour them in peace. The farmers who were so victimized have not yet been able to shoot the eagle, as he invariably returns to the sanctuary of the Swiss territory immediately after having secured his prey. V.

#### RIEDEN.

A 62-year-old farmer in Rieden wanted to greet a newly married couple on returning from their honeymoon, by firing some shots. He took a cartridge and lit it, thinking it would take a long time to burn, held it in his hand. Suddenly the cartridge exploded and tore his right hand clean away. N.Z.Z.

Last Tuesday, Walter Fuchs, a 20-year-old railway worker, who, in the course of his work had to cross the lines in the station of Aarau, was caught by a train coming from Wettingen and was knocked down. Both his legs were cut off and he also suffered such severe head wounds that death, a short time after, came as a relief. N.Z.Z.

#### AMSTEG.

On Sunday night between 10 o'clock and midnight passers by found, almost in the middle of the village of Silenen on the St. Gotthard road, the body of the stonemason Corti. On Monday a cyclist went to the police in Altdorf declaring that at that time he was riding at a slow pace and with a light on through Silenen and knocked against a man, he himself being hurt by the fall. He got up but could not see anyone and so rode on. He was now coming forward as, perhaps, the dead man might be the one he ran into. The doctor is now examining the matter. Corti leaves a family of nine young children. N.Z.Z.

### FROM THE TICINO.

#### REDUCTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The amendment to the Federal Constitution, approved provisionally by the Federal Assembly, whereby the number of members of the National Council is reduced from 198 to 190, is adversely criticised by several of the newspapers. They point out that Latin Switzerland will have to sacrifice 4 members, viz: one each for the cantons of Geneva, Vaud, Neuchâtel and Ticino, whereas among the German speaking cantons, which have already such an overwhelming majority in the National Council, only three, viz: Berne, Zurich and St. Gall will suffer a reduction. THE BASSANESI AFFAIR.

This question continues to be the major item of discussion, both in the press and among the people. Severe criticism is levelled against the Federal Council for the way in which the whole matter has been handled and for the clear desire they have shown to trample Swiss traditions and principles underfoot, for the sake of pleasing the existing Italian régime. The trial, fixed to begin on the 17th of November, promises to be the star turn of the year and the stage is set, through the excessive zeal with which the Federal Council endeavoured to favour Fascism, not for the trial of Bassanesi and his accomplices but for the impeachment of the existing Italian régime. (Continued on back page)

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

When our witty collaborator "ck" mentioned the other week that he should like to have more of Kyburg and less of his Gleanings, he made me blush! Not with vanity, but with a sense of well-merited reproach!

Those of my readers who take the trouble to read all the Gleanings from the British Press I set before them, must often think why some of them fail to stimulate my loquacity and why I so often seem to be content to string these articles loosely together and hardly write a word myself.

I wonder myself over my self-control! It is not sheer laziness, I assure you, it is perhaps just a slight weariness sometimes. When you find, as I so often do, that you write the most outrageously provocative things in your article, only to find that your readers either do not read the stuff, or then think it not worth while to protest vehemently, well, then the fun goes out of the business and you cannot keep on hitting an imaginary foe, as it were, all the time! If my readers would only strike back, hit hard and not take everything I write lying down and with hardly even a murmur, things would be much more lively, because then I could hit back, hard and strong—and what, after all, is more amusing than a real good fight with ink and paper as weapons and with pointed arrows of so-called wit (but no malice), being banded about freely. Well then, as I have written and admonished so often, come on, fight back, let me have it and don't all of you take it lying down, as if you had not an atom of intellect left in your bemused brain! But mind you, no malice! Vituperation, if you will, abuse if you must, leg-pull, yes, but . . . all in good fun and no malice! Now then, come on!

Naturally enough I did not get my present fighting vim by going to the office day after day and working hard. No, my hearties, yours truly has had another wonderful week of sight-seeing in beautiful Cornwall and Devon, not to speak of the journey to and fro, along the King's excellent high roads. At this time of the year, when the autumn tints clothe the landscape in gold, orange, brown and dark green, when the views from the hill-tops are clearer than during the summer, when the air is scented with that tangy scent of decaying leaves and when at eventide you welcome the grey smoke-curls that rise up from the cottage chimneys, and when the scent of the wood-fires is strong in the air as you pass through a village, everything in that part of England makes you feel lovely, makes you see fresh wonders of beautiful Nature everywhere, in short, a holiday at the beginning of autumn in Cornwall is a wonderful tonic and gives you plenty of stamina to face the coming winter fogs of dear, dirty old London.

The catering is excellent. At least, we were very fortunate in finding a tiny little fishing cove, miles away from anywhere, where we found cosy shelter, excellent cooking and dear people, and where the expenses did not run away with us. I rather flatter myself on knowing Southern England pretty well by now, having explored most of it fairly thoroughly, but I have never yet found a spot where one's inner man was looked after in such a wonderfully Lucullan fashion as down there, some thirteen miles south-east of Truro, among a small community of fishermen and their families and in wonderful scenic surroundings. And, if any reader wishes to know details, I shall be glad to furnish them to him. I draw no commission!

Besides walking all day, from rocky cove to sandy beach, over hills and down steep lanes, paddling for hours on end on beautiful sand and in glorious sunshine, we also spent a couple of days motoring and sight-seeing further afield, and one glorious morning we stood on that last stone at Lands End and the guide who had undertaken to pilot us among the rocky fastnesses of that lonely spot and to show us the cave, underneath the rock, where the waters of the St. George's and the English Channel run up against each other, said his little piece:

"You are now the first and the last gentleman (or lady, as the case may be) in England, but not the least and you, of all people in England, are the one nearest to New York."

Those of my readers who have been there too, may remember that little set remark, quoted above and which has been said to countless thousands of visitors.

From there to St. Ives for lunch, followed

programme. I must not omit to place it on record that Mr. G. Marchand was in charge of the arrangements and right well did he deserve the praise bestowed on him.

Alas, all too soon we had to part, but to all of those who had the privilege to attend this festival it will remain in good remembrance; it was truly a most enjoyable evening and the Helvetica Lodge may be heartily congratulated on the success of this, its fourth Ladies' Festival. St.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. B. Rieter, Geneva: "Is Education a Failure?" Mr. A. Delor, Geneva: "The Russians in Exile." Mr. C. Pfenniger, Stäfa: "The Alsatian Home Ruler." Mr. A. Kilcher, Rheinfelden: "Tea." Miss E. Liechti, "Happiness." Mr. N. de Weck, Fribourg: "The Free City of Danzig." Miss G. Pfeiffer, Vevey: "William Shakespeare." Miss V. Steger, Lichtensteig: "My First of August Fire in England." Mr. A. Isotta, Lugano: "Is Novel-reading a Waste of Time?"

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Does the Aim justify the Means?" Proposer: Mr. A. Seiler. Opposer: Mr. O. Freitag.

On Friday night, the 24th October, Mr. E. Yates delivered a most interesting lecture on hidden beauty spots of London. Mr. Yates took us for a stroll from Tower Hill to Temple Bar, and showed us with the help of lantern slides how London had developed since the Roman conquest.

Many Londoners would be surprised if they knew that a large number of their offices have been erected on the remains of Roman walls.

Very interesting were the descriptions and pictures of old City Churches, which, hidden behind massive blocks of modern office-buildings, appear non-existent to the thousands that pass close by to earn their daily bread, yet harbour untold beauty and historical value.

The lecture was savoured by real English humour, and one joke appealed particularly to the audience, namely that of the American lady, who, wishing to take back a souvenir to her native country, implored the old porter of a middle-century building, which she had just visited, to give her just a small relic, no matter what it was.

The old porter scratched his head and expressed his regret, saying that what was to be taken had already found its way to the New World.

Suddenly the American lady caught sight of the door-knocker, an old 16th century masterpiece of ironwork. "Oh yes," said the porter, "I had overlooked that." Money passed. The knocker was carefully unscrewed and the lady left beaming all over her face and pressing a valuable door-knocker under her arm.

But how great would her surprise have been if she had waited a few minutes and heard the porter call up to his wife: "Liz, Liz! Bring down a new knocker; this one has already gone!"

#### SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Swiss Institute Orchestral Society was held at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, on Thursday the 9th October, 1930.

The meeting was very well attended and the members of the Orchestra were extremely gratified to find that their Patrons were represented. It is indeed a pleasure to find that, in addition to their valuable assistance in other directions, some of our Patrons find themselves really interested in the activities of the Orchestra in between concerts.

As regards the election of officers Mr. W. Pellet was again elected as President and the indefatigable Mr. Dick will again act as Secretary with Mr. W. Wagner as Treasurer and Messrs. H. Sobey and C. F. Clarke in completion of the Committee of five.

Considerable enthusiasm was shown in the discussion of the various questions that came before the meeting and it was very evident that the playing members of the Orchestra are keenly interested in its welfare and activities.

We hope that the following preliminary notice will be of the greatest interest to all readers of the *Swiss Observer*. It was decided that another Concert should be given at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, on the 19th February,

1931. It will be remembered that a Concert was given in that Hall in February of this year and the Orchestra was delighted to receive the most complimentary expressions from all sides regarding the performance on that occasion. No effort will be spared to make the next venture even more acceptable and successful and the Committee and members of the Orchestra feel certain that they can once more rely on the wholehearted support of the whole of the Swiss community in London in their enterprise.

Please note the date—19th February, 1931—and help the Orchestra to make the next Concert an outstanding success. A.B.

#### SWISS Y.M.C.A.

The Swiss Y.M.C.A. held its first Social Evening of the season on Saturday, 25th October. Mr. L. G. Zimmermann gave a lecture on "My Holidays on the Danube by Canoe and Tent." The Lantern slides, which were kindly lent by the Austrian Federal Railways, were of great variety and beauty. The good attendance, especially of young men, was encouraging, and none will easily forget the unique impressions of that lecture.

#### FIVE WEEKS IN AMERICA.

The series of articles which appeared in the *Swiss Observer* under the above title by our friend Dr. K. E. Eckenstein have now been published in pamphlet form. The text has been revised and a few interesting additions have been made.

The pamphlet contains 36 pages demy 8vo. and is published at the price of 1/- post free. The author is offering any profits from the sale equally to the Fonds de Secours and the Société Française de Bienfaisance. Copies may be obtained at this office 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

#### Home News—(Continued)

##### CENSORSHIP?

The *Libera Stampa* of Lugano and other papers publish the astonishing fact that two parcels containing copies of a book entitled "Mussolini," by Signor Alcide De Ambris, and published in Marseilles have been returned to the French printers with the remark "Returned because contents not admitted."

The two parcels were addressed to the office of the Trade Unions of Lugano. On arrival at Lugano the post office passed them over to the Customs Office which, acting apparently on previous instructions, asked Berne for guidance and received orders not to allow the books to be delivered but to return them to France. The press is shocked at this procedure because the book is written by one of Signor Mussolini's old time friends and is allowed unrestricted distribution in France and other countries. Some of the papers ask, since when has Switzerland sunk to the level of an Italian colony and must abstain from reading facts unfavourable to the Fascist Régime?

The *Libera Stampa* apparently intends to publish the prohibited book as a Feuilleton or even print a special edition, in order to give the Federal Council the opportunity of establishing under what law they are acting in setting up such a censorship.

#### SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

#### Annual Banquet & Ball

Friday, the 7th November, 1930

at the

#### FIRST AVENUE HOTEL

HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1

RECEPTION	DANCING	DINNER
at 7.15 p.m.	till 2 a.m.	at 7.45 p.m. sharp

Tickets at 10/6 can be obtained from Mr. F. Conrad, 8, Paternoster Row, E.C.4, or Mr. John Gerber, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, or any other Member of the Choir.

#### FOYER SUISSE, 15, Upper Bedford Pl., W.G.1

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd.  
at 4 o'clock.

#### The Work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer

By E. METTLER, Esq.

AT

FOYER SUISSE

Every Swiss Girl Welcome.

Tea Provided.

#### SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up	£6,400,000
Reserves	£1,960,000
Deposits	£43,000,000

**The WEST END BRANCH**  
**opens Savings Bank Accounts on**  
**which interest will be credited**  
**at 2½ per cent. until further notice.**

#### Swiss Rifle Association

Headquarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1  
Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon

#### RESPITE

**The Committee is granting all Members until**  
**the 2nd November to finish the "Endschiesen"**  
**Competitions.**

Snacks at the Bar provided.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

**L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE**  
aura lieu le **MARDI 4 NOVEMBRE** 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.	Démotions.
Admissions.	Banquet Annuel
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 2 Novembre 11 h.—Reformation  
"Toujours joyeux" I Thess. V. 16.  
Ste Cène. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.  
6.30 h.—M. Pradervand Service de Communion.

##### BAPTEMES.

Rosa Elizabeth Skousbo, née le 16/4/28 fille de Carl, Uzugby (Danemark) et de Rosa Steiner son épouse, de Huttwyll (Berne) le 26/10/30.

##### SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Berthe Weideli, née Brunner, de Kreuzlingen (Thurgovie) née le 28/7/1879, décédé le 19/10/30 le 23/10/30.

##### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.3.  
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 2. November: **REFORMATIONSFEST.**  
11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr: Chorprobe.

Dienstag 4. November, Nachmittags 3 Uhr:  
Näherein im Foyer Suisse.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

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.—**SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS MUTUELS:** 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.

Saturday, November 8th, at 2.30 and 4 p.m.—**NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE:** Film Show, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.1. "WITH THE SWISS MOUNTAIN TROOPS IN THE ALPS."

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

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#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th**

for the  
**ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,**

at the  
**May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.**