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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS



FEDERAL.

SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The Winter Season of the Swiss Parliament will open on December the 1st.

SWISS TRADE UNION ANNIVERSARY.

The Swiss Trade Union centre will celebrate this month the 50th anniversary of its founding. Its early founding was largely due to the influence of travelling German journeymen and to the advantages of Switzerland's geographical position on the highway of Europe.

Swiss Trade Unionism has therefore always been strongly influenced by the prevailing European events; although the strength and independence of the Swiss workers themselves is largely responsible for their conquest of a stable position in a country where bilingualism, widely scattered industry and paucity of population all worked against them. Perhaps one of the most striking features of the Swiss Trade Union Movement is the depth of the interest taken by it in workers' education; and the persistence with which it goes its own way in making experiments and comparing experiences in its resolute determination to prepare Swiss workers for their Trade Union work and raise the general level of culture among the workers.

Faced with the usual difficulty of detaching young workers from the absorbing claims of modern amusements and interests, the workers' educational centre has made a special study of new methods of attraction, and is experimenting with new methods of installing labour festivities.

It is unfortunate that the French-speaking parts of Switzerland are less efficiently organised and active than the German, but the total of 186,000 for a small country without large centralised industry is far from a bad record. The great defect of Swiss Trade Unionism is, obviously, its failure to organise its great host of hotel employees.

THE BASSANESI AFFAIR.

The trial of the Italian airman, Bassanesi, who "bombed" Milan with Anti-Fascist pamphlets on July 10th last, opened last Monday at Lugano. Over 22 press reporters from various home and foreign papers were present.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The town of Engelberg has made great preparations for the coming Winter Sport season. A large ice rink has been erected and will be opened shortly. A new ski-ing hut belonging to the Swiss Alpine Club has been built on the Bruni, and several big hotels have constructed special toboggan runs. Various international competitions will be held during the season for which cups and valuable prizes are offered. N.Z.

BERNE.

The socialist party has invited delegations from all over Switzerland, to meet on "Red Sunday" outside the Parliament Building, in order to protest against the increasing expenditure on armaments.

An "Association du Film Cultural" has been founded at Berne by the Geographic Society, the Natural Science Society, the Teachers' Association, and the Swiss Popular and Scholastic Cinema. The object of the association is to give representations of educative films every Sunday morning, and judging by the first "full house" the idea is popular in the federal capital.

BASLE.

A conference, which was attended by delegates of large Societies and public bodies in Basle has unanimously decided to enter into competition with regard to the holding of the federal Singing Festival (Eidg. Sängertag) which is to be held in 1935. It is learned that the town of Berne is anxious that this Festival should take place in that town. The last singing competition which took place at Basle was in 1893 and since 1912 none of the great Federal competitions have taken place there.

FRIBOURG.

On the 1st of this month the register of unemployment showed the following figures: Town of Fribourg 2,534, communes 1,132, making a total of 3,666 of which 3,113 are men and 553 women. N.Z.

GENEVA.

Details are now available with regard to the election of the Geneva cantonal Parliament, which we mentioned in our last issue. The 100 seats for the Grand Council are distributed as follows: Catholics 14 (13); Socialists 37 (32); Liberals 22 (22); Udeists 15 (21); Liberal-Conservatives 12 (12). The Socialists have thus gained five seats and the catholics one seat. V.

The two minutes silence for all those, of whatever nationality, who died in the great war, proved to be a fiasco. The signal was to be given by the large bell of the cathedral, but owing to the electric machinery not functioning at the proper time, the population had no warning, and whilst a part of the pedestrians stood in reverent silence others passed by, and also the traffic, with the exception of the tramcars, was not stopped at the appointed time. V.

Six wild boars, one of them weighing 150lb., have been killed by hunters in the woods three miles from Geneva. The migration of wild boars towards the west among the Jura mountains is particularly noticeable this autumn and herds of 10 to 20 animals are daily seen in the neighbourhood of Geneva, a portent, according to the peasants, of a very severe winter. T.

AARGAU.

The death is reported of Stadtmann Hans Suter, from Zofingen, at the age of 71. The deceased was a member of the National Council as well as of the Grand Council of the Canton of Aargau, and for many years played a prominent part in the affairs of his canton. N.Z.

ST. GALL.

Last Saturday afternoon a fire broke out at the factory of the Diana A.G. in Rapperswil. The fire brigade was unable to cope with it and their efforts were directed to save an adjoining dwelling house as well as the building of the Chemical works of Para A.G., both buildings, however, suffered extensive damages.

The buildings of the Diana A.G. were completely burned out, and although they were insured, heavy losses will be sustained by this firm. Unfortunately, a woman who was employed by the Diana A.G. lost her life, as the warning reached her too late to seek safety. N.Z.Z.

NEUCHÂTEL.

A lively discussion took place during the deliberation of the Grand Council as to the huge losses of the cantonal bank. A commission has been appointed to investigate things very thoroughly.

A socialist member addressed himself in very violent terms against M. Neuhaus, editor of the paper "La Suisse Libérale," who occupied the press gallery and who had attacked the speaker in his paper; the latter retaliated by calling his assailant a coward, whereupon a general uproar started so that the President was obliged to suspend the sitting. B.T.

'S MUEHTI RUEEFT.

Ha z'Nacht im Troum mys Müeti gseh
Und bi drvo erwachet
Es het ni no bim Name grüft,
Und gwinkt, und fründli glachet.
Und was da Troum z'bedüte het,
J ha's vernoh am Morge;
Do isch dr Bricht vor Heimet cho;
Mys Müeterli syg gestorbe.
Und vors für ganz vertschlofen isch,
So syg's no mol erwachet,
Es heig mr no dr Name grüeft,
Und gwinkt, und fründli glachet.

Josef Reinhard.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th
for the
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,
at the
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Winter Sports.

Heavy snow is reported to have fallen in Switzerland, not only on the Alps, but on many lower regions as well, and many foresee a hard winter. We, living in England, naturally feel a strong longing at this time of the year—when or at which time do we not feel it?—to cross the Channel and to go and spend a few weeks among the snowy valleys and hills of our native land. But alas, and alack! The times are not propitious and summer vacations have taken all our spare cash and, besides, isn't there the saving up for Xmas to be remembered?

But it does us good to read about Winter Sports and just now the British Press, especially the illustrated papers are full of the most alluring pictures of Swiss scenery.

If I had harboured any thoughts of going for a week's winter-sport, I might have rushed across to Switzerland without thinking at all about my kit. Just as we used to do in the old days, when a stout pair of boots, duly oiled or greased and a muffler were about the only "extras" we thought it necessary to wear. However, my eyes have been opened wide by reading what a serious business this is, this buying a kit for winter sports and it has, incidentally, banished still more my half-baked idea that my bankers might be persuaded to grant an extension of the old over-draft. Read—

What to buy for Switzerland.

By Fonthill Beckford in *Country Life*, 1st November:

The regulation ski suit has revolutionised winter sports clothes. Gone are the days of riding breeches, plus fours, woollies, odd jackets and all the ridiculous garments that some men considered correct. With the popularity of winter sports has come authoritative information which most of the great stores and shops offer to would-be purchasers. Here I would kill a canard. By all means purchase your outfit and skis in England, but go where you can get advice from an expert. So often I hear it suggested that it is wiser to wait till you get to your destination in Switzerland. What is the result? One or two small shops continually crowded, poor service, misfits and general discomfort.

The modern attire for both sexes to-day consists of a coat and trousers made from a gabardine, serge or any hard-faced material that will not collect the snow. Navy is the popular colour, though sometimes brown is chosen. I have seen Continentals wearing pale blue, red and green, but the Englishman is satisfied with navy or brown: it is better style.

In choosing this outfit, great care should be given to the fit of the trousers. For the benefit of those who are having ski suits made to measure, I give the following particulars, which have provided by a leading Swiss sports outfitter: Ski-ing trousers should be cut 1½ ins. longer than the full leg measure and "open" in the leg for stride. The width at the knee should be about 21 ins., above the ankle about 19 ins., then they taper suddenly till at the bottom they are only just wide enough for the foot to go through. Here they should be pulled on elastic, and a fairly wide elastic band is also sewn strongly at each seam to go under the foot and keep the trousers down inside the boot. The garment should be made with a fall front, the side pockets slanting, jetted and fastened with a zip fastener; a hip pocket is very useful.

The jacket can be either single or double breasted, made tunic fashion, but, personally, I prefer the blouse type. Let it be worn tucked inside the top of the trousers, the latter made with a close-fitting belt, for snow has an unhappy knack of creeping up inside a loose-fitting garment with dire results.

H. R. Spence, the British cross-country ski-ing champion, has made a study of winter sports clothes. He claims that if a man is going in for cross-country ski-ing, plus fours of navy blue gabardine are ideal, but down-hill racers and jumpers, particularly the latter, will find trousers more successful, for plus fours are apt to give the impression that the knees are bent, which counts heavily against any competitor. It will thus be seen that trou-