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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

CONSULAR VISITS.

Members of the Consular Association paid their annual visit on Thursday to the Manchester Town Hall, where they were received by the Lord Mayor, Dr. Schedler, the Consul for Switzerland, and acting President of the Association, offered his congratulations to Alderman Titt on his election to the Lord Mayoralty. Later, members of the association paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Salford. M.G.

A PROFITABLE JUBILEE.

The accounts of the 75th Jubilee Anniversary of the "Eidg. Polytechnikum" in Zurich show a net profit of about 75,000 frs. This amount will be used for the agrandissement of the students' home. N.Z.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE.

The Swiss delegates for the International Wheat Conference which will be held on December 16th in Rome have been nominated by the Federal Council. They are: M. Wagnière, Swiss Minister at Rome, and M. Lasser, Director of the Federal Wheat Office (Getreideamt).

St. G.

NEW SWISS AIR LINE.

The inauguration of a direct air service between Paris and Geneva is being planned by a new Swiss company, the Sagitta Ltd.

A Government subsidy is being considered, and the company will also have in mind the operation at a later date of other air services from Geneva to Turin, Bordeaux and Lyons.

A.

SWISS TRADE IN SEPTEMBER.

During September the trade balance in Switzerland became less unfavourable, exports covering imports up to 67 per cent., as against 63.3 and 63.1 per cent. in August and July.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The degree of "Doctor of Engineering honoris causa" has been conferred, by the Swiss Federal Technical High School (Polytechnikum) upon Mr. Sidney Brown, vice-president of Messrs. Brown, Boveri and Cie, in Baden. E.

* * *

A train, which left Zurich for Uster at 12 noon Monday, 17th of November, has been fired at.

The bullet smashed a window of one of the tightly packed compartments without, however, hitting any of the passengers. An investigation has been ordered. N.Z.Z.

* * *

During a film show at the home of our famous countryman W. Mittelholzer, some of the films caught fire and damage amounting to over 10,000 frs. was caused. V.

BERNE.

It is intended to erect on the "Klösterli" grounds (near the famous bear pit) a large building containing a concert hall to accommodate about 800 people, which will also be used for dancing, lectures, etc. N.Z.Z.

* * *

A very impressive service was held last Monday at the "Schlachtkapelle" above Sempach for all the soldiers belonging to Lucerne regiments who lost their lives during the Great War. V.

* * *

The accounts of the Pilatusbahn for 1930 show a deficit of 48,609 frs. (revenue 227,603 frs., expenditure 276,212 frs.). V.

GLARUS.

On account of heavy and consistent rainfalls various land slides have taken place at the Klichenstock. The Cantonal Government as well as the local authorities of Linthal have taken the matter in hand and it is feared that a part of the threatened village will have to be evacuated. V.

BASLE.

The budget of the town of Bâle for 1931 indicates a revenue of 54,000,000 frs. and an expenditure of 60,000,000 frs., leaving a deficit of 6,000,000 frs. V.

FRIBOURG.

The Grand Council has decided by a large majority to cancel the order of a 2½ per cent. reduction on the salaries of the States personal, which was in force for some time. By the 1st of January all renumerations of cantonal civil servants will be paid in full. V.

VALAIS.

A part of the castle of Vorpilliére, near Massongex, has been destroyed by fire, the cause of the conflagration has not yet been ascertained. N.Z.Z.

LAUSANNE.

A monument, taking the form of an altar tomb, has been placed in the Protestant cemetery of Bois de Vaux, at Lausanne, to the memory of Bishop Charles Henry Brent, who was buried there in compliance with his dying request. The monument, designed by his godson, Ralph Adams Oram, a well-known Boston church architect, was paid for by four thousand New York churchmen, contributing not more than one dollar each. The Bishop's grave has been granted a perpetuity and is kept constantly beautiful with flowers by the municipality of Lausanne. Bishop Brent was President of the Faith and Order Conference at Lausanne. C.W.

BRUGG.

A young man of about 22 years of age knocked, at midnight, at the door of the Restaurant Strössler which was closed.

When the proprietress opened the door he threatened her with a revolver, she managed, however, with the aid of her sisters, who happened to be at hand, to dis-arm the aggressor when a shot rang out, wounding the two sisters slightly, the perpetrator managed to escape. St. T.

GRAUBUENDEN.

The Canton of Graubuenden is issuing a 4 per cent. loan of 8,000,000 frs. for the conversion of old loans. V.

ZUM ZEHNTEN GEBURTSTAG.

Glück auf zum Freudenfeste,
Zum zehnten Geburtstag!
Wir bringen dir das Beste
In Fortunas Verlag.

Wir wünschen frei von Sorgen,
Erfreuliches Gedeih'n;
Für dich soll jeder Morgen
Ein wolkenloser sein!

Mögst du dich frei entfalten;
Dein Motto bleib: Ich bin,
Entschlossen, stets zu halten
Auf Schweizerart und Sinn!

Mög' es dir so gelingen
Am fernen Themsestrand.
Um's Schweizerherz zu schlingen
Ein enges Eintrachtsband!

Mögst du an allen Herden,
Wo Schweizerfarben wehn,
Dienststernmassen werden
Ein Freund stets gesehn.

Zum Schluss wir dankbarwinden
Gebührend voll und ganz,
Tief alle wir's empfinden.
Dem Gründer einen Kranz.

MUTZ.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th

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ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

1920—1930.

The *Swiss Observer*, our gallant little friend who celebrates his tenth birthday, remains a modest newspaper, modesty being one of the most becoming virtues and rightly belonging to a Swiss.

But it is not always the giants whose memory lasts longest or who awaken our deepest affections. From biblical times until to-day, human beings have always reserved their sweetest and also fiercest feelings for wee babies and we Swiss, a wee Nation surrounded by giants, have had this feeling developed more than others.

It is therefore, and perhaps only natural, that we should take so to our little *Swiss Observer*. That we should await its arrival on Saturday morning much more eagerly than that of our daily paper.

There is, of course, another and still deeper reason: The *Swiss Observer* brings us tidings not only of the doings of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, but also and often so very succinctly and happily, of incidents which have occurred in our Homeland. How is it, I often wonder, that those little paragraphs on the front page of the *Swiss Observer*, interest me so very much? How is it that the news of a barn having been burnt down by lightning, in the Canton of Appenzell conjures up not visions of the dread disaster of fire, but of the little and homely dwelling houses of that district and of the pretty dialect they speak (or should I write "sing"), near the Sentis? I do not know, but I do know that these little tit-bits of Swiss news, although I might perhaps read them in a Swiss paper or even in an English paper, have, in the *Swiss Observer*, a quality of their own, are imbued, I might almost say, with a sort of radio-activity, so that they can send out rays illuminating the memory of past and happy days.

That is, perhaps, one reason why I, personally, love the *Swiss Observer* and would not be without it. There are others, of course. There is my article which is always very good (somebody lost a trumpet?). There are interesting reports of Swiss Societies' affairs, travels in foreign lands, now and then a "Witz" and then there are those alluring advertisements of Swiss delicacies, which make my mouth water every Saturday.

The *Swiss Observer* also makes it clear that we have two Swiss Churches in London and that the spiritual needs of our compatriots are well looked after.

A little paper! Yes, but a Swiss Paper, a wee bit of Swiss air, of Swiss character, of Swiss Nationality, a whiff as it were of our homeland breezes.

And what about the little band of enthusiasts, or shall we say of "doers of duty," those who contribute, by articles, by paying for advertisements, by doing all sorts of odd jobs and, last, but first really, what about our Editor whose beaming and enthusiastic countenance is quite sufficient to get all his co-workers to give of their best?

They all work for the love of the paper, for the love of Switzerland and because they think it is their duty to work for our little paper, so that this "trait d'unio" in our Swiss Colony should continue to give pleasure to as many as possible, and remind them, week by week, of the glorious and beloved homeland.

I think these few points have only got to be brought before any decent Swiss in England to make him decide, on the spot, to subscribe to our little effort. After all, what are the few shillings you have to pay yearly, in comparison with what we offer you? And were it only that you receive each week an empty sheet, with only the words "SWISS" printed on it, that would remind you of Switzerland, it would be a personal reminder and therefore welcome and worth the money. It is one thing to read articles about Switzerland in an English paper, however profusely illustrated they may be, and it is quite another thing and a very much lovelier experience to have a Swiss Paper sent to you privately, to you and not also to all your neighbours, see?, week by week.

And so many happy returns to our dear *Swiss Observer*!

And, now, a couple of short "Gleanings" just to justify our title.