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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.

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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.

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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.

Catching a Chamois alive.

"Observer," 9th inst.:

The first heavy snowfall, which occurred during the last days of October, covered the Alps with a layer up to six feet thick in places, sufficient for the first attempts in skiing. It was, however, considerably reduced by the subsequent milder weather. Only in altitudes above 4,500 feet did it remain practically intact. Further snow has now fallen, and it may be said that winter has definitely settled in the higher slopes. At present the snow-limits reaches down to 1,600 feet above sea level.

It does not often happen that November affords such fine conditions for skiing as this year. The chamois hunters are not so pleased: the snow has ruined their sport, rendering rock-climbing and picnicking very doubtful pleasures. On the other hand, the deep and, as yet, very soft snow hampers the chamois in their movements and renders their tracking and shooting much easier. Two men on skis have accomplished the never-before-heard-of feat of catching a chamois alive.

Swiss Government and Dublin Show.

Irish News, 8th November:

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Professor J. Joly, F.R.S., F.T.C.D., president, in the chair, a letter was read from the President of the Federal Government of Switzerland, through the Free State Minister for External Affairs, conveying the thanks of the Swiss Government for the congratulations of the Society on the achievement of the military team representing the Swiss Army in winning the Aga Khan Cup outright at the recent Dublin Horse Show.

His Excellency the President expressed, on behalf of the Federal authorities, their thanks to the Government of the Irish Free State, the Ministry of Defence, the representatives of the Irish Army, the Royal Dublin Society, and to the people of Ireland for the cordial reception which had always been given to the Swiss team, and for the measures taken to render their stay in Dublin so agreeable. The Swiss team will retain the happiest memories of their stay in the city.

THE BASSANESI TRIAL.

On Monday morning, the 17th inst., five judges of the Federal Tribunal, with judge Agostino Soldati as President, gathered in the hall of the Town Council of Lugano for the trial of Giovanni Bassanesi and his seven accomplices. All appeared with the exception of the Frenchman Gaston Brabant on behalf of whom a deposition was put forward proving that he had no charge to answer.

As soon as the preliminary formalities had been gone through Me. Moro Giafferi caused a little sensation by submitting to the Court a set of documents received the day before from the French Air Ministry in which the French authorities certified that at the time of the flight Bassanesi had all the titles required to undertake flights in France as well as abroad. Something of a sensation was also caused when Colonel Isler, a Swiss aviation expert and first witness for the prosecution, under cross-examination by Me. Moro Giafferi, had to admit that he himself did not quite know the regulations and whether Lodrino was or was not a recognised landing place.

During his evidence Bassanesi was repeatedly tripped up by the President for straying on to the political side of the matter, and was told that the whole trial merely concerned the fact that his pilot licence was not in order, that he was not entitled to fly from Lodrino and that he had not carried a log-book in his aeroplane. Bassanesi again strenuously resisted the desire of the Court to know the name of his companion during the flight over Milan. Judge Soldati rebuked him for not telling the full truth when first cross-examined, immediately after the crash, but Moro Giafferi pointed out that it was inhuman to have so closely cross-examined Bassanesi when he was lying between life and death, and that to shield his friends so as to spare them from death, if they happened to set foot into Italy again, answered a higher moral purpose. As regards the counts of the indictment Me. Moro Giafferi contended that according to Swiss law, and in view of the Franco-Swiss Air-convention, Bassanesi was perfectly in order with regard to his pilot licence and was also entitled to fly from Lodrino.

However, the turn of Tarchiani and Rosselli and their witnesses, Count Sforza and Filippo Turati, came the trial went over to the political field, for long periods. All the accused Italians told in evidence that, before embarking on the enterprise, they had carefully studied the Franco-Swiss air-convention and considered they were perfectly within the rules in doing what they did, but as they would have done the same even if they had known that they were breaking the regulations they were prepared to suffer without murmur the punishment which might be meted out to them. Being all highly educated men, their evidence makes fine reading and enthralled even the judges on the Bench, however much it had

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been the intention to keep Fascism in the background.

Tarchiani explained the activities of the anti-fascist organisation "Justice and Liberty," how the flight came about and how proud he was to be among the accused. At one point he added: "I am grateful to the Ticino, this sacred land of liberty, which by remaining faithful to its traditions has made the enterprise possible. We have found here friends, inspiration and generous help, which shows how the Italians can live free, under free institutions. On one of your monuments in this town we have read 'Free and Swiss.' We cherish to believe that it is possible to be 'Free and Italians' and it is for this we are fighting!" The president pointed out they fully appreciate such sentiments, but we have to avoid difficulties with the Fascist Government.

When Tarchiani told in evidence that no prior arrangement had been made to meet the Ticinesi implicated in the affair Judge Soldati pointed out it seemed rather strange that in every Ticinese they happened to approach they found a wholehearted anti-fascist, but Tarchiani retorted that wherever there are free men there are anti-fascists.

One of the passages of Rosselli's evidence reads: "Let me clear up a point or two. I shall keep within the limits. With Tarchiani and Bassanesi and untold thousands of other Italians we are fighting to bring Italy back to liberty and civilisation—a free, democratic, republican Italy, within a liberal Europe. The State we dream of is one like Switzerland and the freedom we are seeking is the same as you have. As a boy I was brought up to love William Tell who fights the tyrant Gessler."

I had a home, it has been burnt down, I had a newspaper, it has been suppressed and destroyed, I held a University professorship, it has been taken from me; I had friends and Masters—Amendola, Gobetti, Matteotti—they have been murdered. In order to defend my country and my personal dignity I have suffered imprisonment, internment and exile. We are fighting to-day with the same spirit with which the Swiss of old fought the State which oppressed them. In the whole enterprise we merely thought of the gesture of humanity: the two young men who flew over Milan were carrying in their hearts the words of the Swiss Federal Constitution."

After Rosselli had spoken rather at length of the traditions of Switzerland and the laws of humanity, Judge Soldati brought the proceedings back to the small points at issue with the remark: "Yes, as men we can feel the fullest possible sympathy with you, but as Magistrates . . . well, we have the regulations to enforce." The venerable Filippo Turati and Count Sforza spoke with warmth of the unrivalled reputation the accused enjoyed in Italy and of the conditions under the Fascist Government.

One point made by National Councillor Tarchiani in the summing up was that as the prosecution do not claim that Bassanesi and his accomplices did anything punishable under the Penal Code, but merely disregarded administrative regulations, Swiss law makes only the principal author answerable for the offence and all the accomplices must therefore be acquitted.

The trial finished on Wednesday, November 19th, and on the Saturday following sentence was delivered condemning Bassanesi to four months imprisonment and a fine of 200 Swiss francs, but all the other accused were acquitted. As Bassanesi had, however, already been detained for over four months he walked out of Court a free man.

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