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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

THE AEROPLANE IN THE SERVICE OF MOUNTAINEERING.

Thanks to a permission from the Federal Department for Military Aviation an interesting experiment has successfully been carried out with the aid of military pilots. The aim was to discover four members of a skiing expedition which were "lost" somewhere in the regions of the Churfirsten. Half an hour after leaving Dübendorf the aeroplane, having on board a pilot and an observer, discovered the four men and rendered first-aid services by dropping parcels of food, rugs, etc.

Afterwards the aeroplane signalled to a group of skiing members of the Alpine Club stationed at Unterwasser, giving them the exact position of the "lost" men, and a skiing team arrived at the indicated spot within a short time.

This first experiment in discovering lost alpinists with the aid of aeroplanes has left the conviction in the minds of all the participants that it has more than proved its efficiency in this instance and might usefully be employed in even more difficult cases. Similar expeditions will enable our military aviators to fulfil in times of peace a most useful aim which will find sympathy in all quarters.

Further experiments are proposed in other parts of the mountains and under more difficult conditions and it is hoped that the results will lead to the formation of a definite organisation for the specific purpose of establishing a service for the discovery of lost mountaineers. J.G.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The Executive Council has decided to move the Grauholz monument from its present emplacement by about four hundred meters in a north-westerly direction. At its present place the monument is partly hidden from view by the buildings of the cavalry remounts depot. N.Z.Z.

A closed car containing five people skidded and toppled over on the railway line at Delsberg just before the Basle Express was due. Fortunately the falling over burst open the saloon's roof, so that the passengers could just crawl out before the train reduced the car to pulp. N.

LUCERNE.

Builder Odoni at Hochdorf was disturbed in the middle of the night by a noise in his garden. The nocturnal visitor was a wild boar gorging itself with cabbages. With the help of some neighbours the 180 lbs. of free meat were secured. St. G.T.

BASLE.

A new daily paper has been founded at Basle under the name "Neue Basler Zeitung." Its policy will be to safeguard the interests of the conservative party and of matters affecting national welfare. A board of eight was elected, with Dr. jur. Hans Kramer as chairman.

A serious outbreak of fire occurred in the firm Gansser, furriers, at the Freiestrasse. The valuable stocks were completely burned. Smoke poured through the house, and it was only after great trouble that the proprietor Gansser, who was confined to bed in his third-storey flat, was saved from death by suffocation. N.Z.Z.

Dr. Uhlmann, of Riehen, and his family travelled by car from Waldenburg to Langenbruck. Near the Klus, just before Langenbruck, the car skidded on the frozen road and fell into the Frenke ravine. After several somersaults, the car landed at the bottom on its wheels. Dr. Uhlmann's father-in-law succumbed after a few moments, while Dr. Uhlmann, his wife and her mother were slightly injured. The children in the car escaped damage.

Farmer Gottfried Wenger, a former Councillor, of Langgarben near Diegten has died as the result of a most curious case of injury. A bundle of straw fell on to him and crushed his face.

Some weeks later, great pain racked his head and, after two operations, it was found that a piece of straw had penetrated the brain through the ear. N.

ST. GALL.

A heavy landslide occurred at Quinten between the hamlets Au and Schilt. Great damage was caused, particularly in the surrounding woods. Part of the very costly re-afforestation carried out during the last few years was destroyed. This is the third landslide within the last two years, and experts are thereby confirmed in their opinion that the planned road along the right hand border of the Walensee is not a sound proposition. N.Z.Z.

The Grand Council, in its last sitting before the elections, has sent a request to the Executive Council to study ways and means of succouring the inhabitants of the Pfäfers community, which includes the whole of the Tamina valley, as part of the scheme to relieve necessitous inhabitants of the mountain valleys. It was also decided by a majority to prolong the office term of the Grand Council, the Executive Council and the Communal Councils from three to four years, to start from 1930. N.

GRAUBUENDEN.

The election of a Federal State Councillor in place of the late Dr. Brügger will take place on March 2nd. The names of National Councillor Dr. Bossi, of the former Grand Councillor Dr. Willi, of Council President J. Huonder, and of the former National Councillor Dr. Dedual are before the Conservative Party with a view to selecting a candidate. St. G.T.

VAUD.

The delegates' meeting of the liberal-democratic party have proposed the two liberal members Bujard and Dufour for re-election to the States Council on March 2nd. They have further given full power to the committee to come to an arrangement with the radical-democratic party.

The assembly has unanimously proposed the acceptance of the alcohol Bill. J.G.

A fire has destroyed part of the large farm "En Freymond" in Moudon. About 30 pigs perished in the flames and the damage is estimated at more than Frs. 40,000.

Mr. Arsène Durc, who was in charge of the Fête des Vignerons in 1927 at Vevey, has died in Paris at the early age of 55. T.G.

TICINO.

The "Libera Stampa" (Socialistic paper) reports that two Ticinesi have been arrested at Mendrisio. They were found to be in possession of compromising papers, among which is a list of Ticinesi who were to be handed over to the fascist police, in whose services the arrested men are supposed to be. Other arrests are expected and police enquiries are continuing. J.G.

The Lugano police have further arrested a cab driver named Poretto who, after cross examination, pleaded guilty to having provided Imperiali (one of the men arrested at Mendrisio) with names of Italians and Ticinesi who were denounced by him as being anti-fascists.

Imperiali in his turn confessed to having sent the lists of names received in this way to someone in Italy.

Amazing details are given in some papers of the discovery of a considerable spying organisation all over Switzerland, which has been responsible for the various frontier incidents troubling Swiss-Italian relations.

Rather amusing is the account that Poretto is supposed to have been paid one franc for each name supplied and that in some instances he has given names of persons who have long been dead.

QUAINT ENGLISH.

A friend who has just returned from a six months' holiday in Switzerland gave me two quaint examples of English as she is written in out-of-the-way mountain chalets. One notice, taken from a small hotel frequented by rock-climbers, runs as follows:—

"It is defended to circulate in the corridors in boots of ascension before seven hours of the morning."

The other is a warning to travellers not to appear at dinner in evening dress. It says:—

"Strange gentlemen are requested not to dress for dinner, as their costume flatters the souls of the maid folk, and no work is resulted."

Which implies that Swiss girls are more susceptible than is generally imagined! D.C.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Leonard Adolf Frenken (1885-1930)

A sudden attack of Angina put an untimely sudden end to one of the most lovable friends Kyburg has had the good fortune of knowing. Leo-Adolf Frenken is dead and I feel sure that the grievous news will be a great shock to all those who have met him at one time or another. A man in the prime of his life, a sportsman in the true sense of the word if ever there was such a one, a passionate lover of his native country Switzerland, Frenken leaves a great and terrible void behind him. Kyburg has lost in him his best Swiss friend in our Colony, a chum of long gone-by school days and mere words are utterly futile to describe the feeling of blank loneliness and gloom which were almost overpowering when we laid the earthly remains of our friend to rest on Friday, 14th inst. at South Norwood Cemetery, high up near the Church on the Hill, in a spot overshadowed by an old elm-tree, a beautiful site and one which Leo would have chosen himself surely, if he had known. Frenken came to England in 1907 and leaves a widow and two children. He was well-known especially in Tennis and later in Golfing circles, his handicap at Golf being as low as 3. Farewell, old friend, gone from us much too soon.

Greetings from Swiss to English Scholars:

Schoolmaster, 30th Jan.

Professor Albisser of Lucerne writes that a Message of Good Will from English scholars addressed to the scholars of the world was published in the Swiss Teachers' Journal and also in the Cantonal Press for Lucerne. He sends to THE SCHOOLMASTER AND WOMAN TEACHER'S CHRONICLE three letters from pupils in his college reciprocating those good wishes. He suggests that one or more of them should be published and copies of the issue containing them sent to Lucerne.

A MESSAGE OF GOOD-WILL, 1929.

"My dear young English people.

"Here, in our schoolroom on Thursday, September 24, 1929, we have received your message sending Good Luck and Affectionate Regards. We know you either from radio, from illustrations, from books or from school instruction, although we are separated from your beloved Fatherland by many lands and by an arm of the sea. We know that the Army of your esteemed people in the World War performed great deeds in the fearfully destructive battlefields of the earth. It is for us a great joy to have in our midst the League of Nations which has already taken good action in regard to danger threatening conflicts. Freedom shall find entrance to the people of all Nations of the Earth, in spite of the fact that in every State, large or small, large sums of money are wasted on the disgrace of War. Is it not possible to create a feeling of peace amongst all people? But perhaps most unhappily many years may pass before that distrust between nations, which, like a dreadful wild beast, holds us in thrall, shall have vanished from the cold-blooded hearts of men. We have heard also about your unconquerable mighty Navy which is a great triumph for modern English technical craftsmanship. But is it not a shame to spend so much money on such an object? But we believe that this squandering of money cannot be stopped until all nations are fully impressed with the need to trust one another. This seems to us essential when all the nations of Europe feel that they must protect themselves against a threatening real danger. So we join with you in your cheery message: 'Peace shall reign amongst all the mighty nations of the Earth,' and we greet you in the name of the peace-loving youth of Lucerne."

HUGO BREITSCHMID

I print the above because it contains that very wonderful and true sentiment, "Is it not possible to create a feeling of peace amongst all people?" Let us hammer it in, all the time, everywhere! Let's talk Peace and Peace only and slowly, perhaps, but surely, the world will get used to Peace.

Dr. Adolf Keller's Visit:

British Weekly, 6th Feb.

I think it right that the following article should be brought to the notice of our readers, because Dr. A. Keller has done and continues doing a very great deal of really first-class work on behalf of religion.