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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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FEDERAL.

THE SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The two Houses of the Swiss Parliament assembled last Monday for the summer session which is expected to last from three to four weeks. The President of the National Council (Graber, Soc.) referred to the extremely precarious situation caused to some of our most important industries by the new American Customs Tariff. In the States Council the project to rebuild the Basle Central Post Office necessitating a credit of Frs. 685,000 was ratified after a short discussion.

MILITARY AVIATION.

Little sympathy was extended in the National Council to the new proposals of the Federal Council with reference to military aviation. No less than 105 new aeroplanes with 42 reserve motors are to be put in commission at a cost of about 20 million francs. The proposal has also been sharply criticised outside parliamentary circles and sixty resolutions have been forwarded to Berne demanding either the rejection of the official message, or its submission to a referendum suggesting at the same time that the suggested twenty million francs might be better employed in giving relief to watch, embroidery and other industries affected by the present crisis. Speaking on behalf of the majority of the "comité d'étude" National Councillor de Muralt (Lib.) warmly recommended the proposal which was based on modern military requirements and necessary if the independence of our country was to be maintained. For the minority of the commission National Councillor Schmid (Soc.) advanced that the means at our disposal would never be adequate to create a sufficient defence, that in future wars poisonous gasses would be the predominant factor and that above all the proposal was against the spirit of the League of Nations. National Councillor Nicole (Soc.) supported the rejection stating that this was obviously only the beginning of a larger scheme as these 105 aeroplanes were of little use in a war; the socialist party were on principle against any further armaments. Other socialist members followed suit. Councillors Sulzer and Vallotton (both Lib.) represented the other point of view, the latter pointing out that the "Declaration of London of 1920" imposed on Switzerland the obligation to defend its own neutrality.

STUDENTS' LABOUR COLONIES.

As in former years labour colonies are being arranged for Swiss undergraduates. In order to encourage the scheme the Federal Council is granting a subsidy of Frs. 2.50 per student, per working day, which amount may even be increased if essential or desirable operations are carried out in poor mountain districts difficult of access.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

In an address delivered at the Teachers' Conference at Schaffhausen Federal Councillor Motta dwelt on the great importance of the popular vote in 1920 which enabled Switzerland to become a member of the League of Nations; if the people had voted differently the negotiations for the formation of the League would probably have broken down.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

In the final round for the Swiss Championship Servette beat Basle by three goals to nil and the Genevese Club therefore retains its title, being at the top of the "A" clubs with eight points. Next in order follow the Zurich Grasshoppers who secured a victory against the Young Boys by three to one. Biel also won against Lugano by one to nil. Both these clubs secured five points though the Grasshoppers are second in the list owing to a better goal average. The remaining three competitors in the "A" series—Lugano, Young Boys and Basle—have each secured two points.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

An unfortunate incident marred the recent races on the Zurich Allmend. The horse "Fruit

defendu," very restive on approaching the starting place, bolted, flinging the two grooms holding it to one side and spreading its rider, Captain Hugo Laubli, on the other side. The animal then cleared the fence, raced towards the open-air café beside the grandstand and jumped over a table at which people were sitting into a group of spectators. A woman and her two children were so badly kicked that, after first-aid had been given by one of the doctors in attendance on behalf of the racing committee, they had to be removed to hospital. The Stewards immediately banned the horse from all races. *St. G.T.*

BERNE.

The new General Post Office at Biel was opened on May 26th. The General Telephone Exchange is also housed in the building. *N.Z.Z.*

The Verkehrs- and Verschönerungsverein Burgdorf had invited Mr. Mittelholzer to hold a lantern-slide lecture on his last African flight. Advertisements and posters announced this lecture, which promised to be of outstanding interest. The public arrived in crowds from far and near and, when the hour fixed for the start of the lecture had arrived, there was not one seat left in the big communal hall. Everything was ready, the screen in place, and the cashier rubbed his hands gleefully behind the overflowing till. Only the lecturer had not yet come, although he had promised to be there by 7.30 p.m. At 8 p.m. he had not yet turned up, and at 8.15, when feelings had reached fever point, it was decided to ring up Mittelholzer's home in Zurich. He himself answered the call! . . . Under pressure of business he had completely forgotten his engagement. Well, a sense of humour and the return of the ticket money saved the situation. All the same, Burgdorf expects Mittelholzer not to forget the new date on which the lecture is to take place. *N.Z.Z.*

LUCERNE.

The Cantonal Accounts for 1929 show a surplus of 234,300 Frs., against a deficit foreseen in the budget of 296,500 Frs. This surplus was obtained in spite of again allocating 500,000 Frs. to the fund for reducing the Cantonal Debt and of paying 400,000 Frs. into the Public Welfare Insurance fund. The splendid result is due to a considerably increased revenue from rates and taxes. *N.Z.Z.*

GLARUS.

Josue Schmucki, of Linthal, railway conductor, was caught by the Zurich-Chur express at Mühlhorn during shunting operations and killed. He leaves a widow and four grown-up children. Schmucki had 37 years service to his credit and was due to retire on pension very shortly. *N.Z.Z.*

ARGAU.

The society "Pro Vindonissa" reports the discovery of thermae which exceed in size any warm-water baths of Roman origin so far discovered in Switzerland. The buildings are so extensive, that 4 to 5 years work will be needed to uncover it all. This new development in the society's researches seems to indicate that, apart from the military station, there was also a civil Vindonissa of importance. *St. G.T.*

GRAUBUENDEN.

The Evangelical Grand Council, which is the legislative body in matters affecting the Rhetian Established Church, has for the second time discussed the question of granting the right to elect women as fully-fledged Ministers of the Church. The Synod's report to the Council showed a majority in favour of the proposed alteration. The Grand Council decided to settle this matter in a forthcoming revision of the constitution of the Church. *N.Z.Z.*

NEUCHATEL.

Mr. Charles-Albert Michel, aged 74, a native of Neuchâtel, has had rather an unpleasant surprise. On the occasion of a trip to Venice he made the acquaintance of two individuals, one a Canadian and the other a Belgian. Under the well-known pretext that they intended to convey to him a large sum in American dollars for the benefit of several charitable Swiss institutions they induced him to return to Neuchâtel and meet them again at Venice with an amount of 50,000 Swiss francs, against which sum the equivalent sum in dollars was to be handed over.

After remitting the 50,000 francs they handed him an envelope which was supposed to contain a similar amount in American currency:

(Continued on back page)

Diner de la Colonie

EN L'HONNEUR DE MONSIEUR PARAVICINI.

De toutes les manifestations sociales qui, en cours de saison, réunissent année après année nos compatriotes établis en Grande-Bretagne, aucune n'égale celle qui s'est déroulée d'une façon si imposante samedi soir, 31 mai, au Restaurant Monaco et vers laquelle la pensée des Suisses habitant ce pays s'était dirigée pendant des semaines auparavant. C'est que la célébration du JUBILE DECENTNAL de la mission d'un diplomate dans une même capitale n'est pas un événement commun. Et lorsque, au surplus, la personne du jubilé est celle éminente de notre excellent et très sympathique Ministre de Suisse à Londres et la colonie a le bonheur de le fêter entouré de la charmante personnalité de Madame Paravicini, de ses gracieuses filles, Mesdemoiselles Livia et Jacqueline et de son fils, Monsieur Vincent Paravicini, venu expressément du collège pour participer à cet hommage mûrité, l'atmosphère est bien naturellement celle des rares et grandes occasions.

Une brillante assemblée, de plus de trois cents personnes, est là réunie, d'abord dans le salon de la réception, puis dans la grande salle des banquets—le Hall International, ainsi qu'elle est nommée—pour préparer à ses invités distingués de la soirée une bienvenue des plus chaleureuses.

Outre Monsieur A. Schupbach, Président de la fête, accompagné de Madame Schupbach, on y remarque les personnalités suivantes: Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Conseiller de Légation, Monsieur le Dr. A. Schedler, Consul de Suisse à Manchester, Monsieur E. Montag, Consul de Suisse à Liverpool, Monsieur W. de Bourg, Secrétaire de Légation, accompagné de Madame de Bourg, Monsieur L. Micheli, Secrétaire de Légation, Monsieur Cl. Rezzonico, Secrétaire de Légation, Monsieur P. Hilfiker, Chancelier de Légation, Monsieur E. Werner, Président du Comité d'organisation, Monsieur le Dr. Pettavel, ancien Consul de Suisse à Johannesburg, Monsieur A. Duruz, Directeur de l'agence des C.F.F., Monsieur Perrochet, Directeur de la Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., Monsieur Ch. Barbezat, accompagné de Madame Barbezat, Monsieur G. Wuthrich, Directeur de la Oerlikon Co., Ltd., Monsieur F. Schubeler, Directeur du Bureau de Londres de la Maison Sulzer Frères, Monsieur H. F. Roost, Directeur de la Zenith Watch Co., Ltd., Monsieur A. Branen, Concessionnaire des Chocolats Suchard, Monsieur Léon Rueff, ancien directeur de la Swiss Bank Corporation, Monsieur H. Jenne, Directeur-adjoint de la même banque, Monsieur F. Haegler, Représentant à Londres de la Banque Commerciale de Bâle, Monsieur le Dr. Hugo Rast, Monsieur le Dr. Schroeter, Monsieur le Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Monsieur le Pasteur Th. Hahn, accompagné de Madame Hahn, Monsieur C. Campart, président de la Société de Secours Mutuals, accompagné de Madame Campart, Monsieur Ch. Chapuis, Président du City Swiss Club, accompagné de Madame Chapuis, Monsieur R. Dupraz, Président du Fonds de Secours Suisse, Monsieur W. Notari, Président de l'Union Ticinense, accompagné de Madame Notari, Monsieur Indermaur, Président de l'Union Helvétique, accompagné de Madame Indermaur, Monsieur Calnori, Vice-Président du Schweizerbund, accompagné de Madame Calnori, Monsieur M. Paschoud, Président de la Swiss Mercantile Society, accompagné de Madame Paschoud, Monsieur J. Schennermeier, Président de la Swiss Y.M.C.A., Monsieur A. F. Suter, Président du Groupe londonien de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique, accompagné de Madame Suter, Monsieur F. Conrad, Président de la Swiss Choral Society, Monsieur H. Senn, Président de la Swiss Riffle Association, Monsieur W. Pellet, Président de la Swiss Institute Orchestral Society, accompagné de Madame Pellet, Monsieur Turiens, de la Swiss Culinary Society, accompagné de Madame Turiens, Monsieur F. Gygaz, du Swiss Club Liverpool, Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, fondateur du "Swiss Observer," accompagné de Madame Boehringer, Messieurs Bertschinger et Meyer, du Foyer Suisse.

A peine le Président, Monsieur Schupbach, les cinq invités d'honneur et les membres du Comité de réception ont-ils pris leurs places que la mignonne petite fille d'un membre de la colonie, vêtue de blanc et portant l'écharpe aux couleurs nationales, se faufile au travers des rangs serrés de l'assemblée pour présenter, en son nom, un

61st "FETE SUISSE"
JUNE 19th, 1930.

Events of all kinds and descriptions follow one another swiftly in our Colony, and now June has set in, the "Fête Suisse" traditional month! So we are looking forward to that yearly family gathering of the London Swiss, anticipating eagerly to meet there, once again, some old friend from whom circumstances have parted us for too long.

We understand the programme will be very acceptable this year. "Central Hall" with its better accommodation should make it much easier for the artists as well as for the audience: it has 1,200 seats and a large platform. Besides the Dolmetsch's and Miss Browne, already mentioned, there will be Mr. André Loew, the Neuchâtel violinist. Our faithful Colony Orchestra will have a real chance, this year, to show us what it can do, thanks to more convenient arrangements, and will surely create the patriotic "stimmung" we have always enjoyed. As for the Swiss Choral Society, it ought to fill up easily the big hall with the powerful volume of its fine voices, and our gymnasts should create a sensation with their acrobatics, just as in old Portman Rooms. Besides, the grand organ, held by Pastor Hahn, will be a valuable asset; the rising generation will provide one of Dalcroze's exquisite "rondes," and our three national languages will all come into their own.

It is up to our Colony now to do its bit, in answer to the Committee's venture in hiring this new magnificent hall. It will do so readily, we know, not only to assist the Committee in meeting the larger cost of hiring, but because the whole net profit of the Fête will go to the relief of our poor compatriots. Each ticket bought helps. Take, therefore, as many as you possibly can!

The Secretary.

SWISS CONSUL HONOURED.

The Senate and Council of the University of Liverpool have agreed to confer upon Mr. Émile Montag, Consul for Switzerland in Liverpool, the Honorary degree of Master of Science of the University of Liverpool. This degree will be conferred on the day of the Summer Graduation ceremony of the University, the 5th July 1930 at 11.30 a.m. in St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

Mr. E. Montag has been a Fellow of the Geological Society of London since 1902. He is also a member of Scientific Societies, both English and Swiss, including the Liverpool Geological Society on whose Council he has been since 1913 and whose President he was in 1924 and 1925. His interest in Geology therefore extends over 30 years and it is very satisfactory that the authorities of the University should have seen their way to honour him with the Honorary degree of "M.Sc." and through him the Liverpool Geological Society which has such an excellent record for good work.

PERSONAL.

We congratulate Monsieur and Madame L. Jobin on the advent of a further pledge of their mutual affection, a daughter, Yolande Antoinette, having been born on Friday, May 30th.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOHN BERNASCONI.

Sheffield has lost one of its most prominent Catholic citizens by the recent death of Mr. John Bernasconi, who for a great many years had been active in every good work for the Church in his native city—for although of Swiss extraction, he was born in Sheffield eighty years ago. Mr. Bernasconi had been in failing health for several months before his death. Three years ago he retired from business life after a busy career of sixty years. A generous benefactor to charity, he threw himself ardently into many Catholic enterprises, as did also Mrs. Bernasconi, who holds the Medaille de la Reine Elisabeth for her efforts on behalf of Belgian refugees during the Great War. On the occasion of their golden wedding in 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Bernasconi were honoured with a message of congratulation from the Holy Father.

Owing to lack of space we are reluctantly compelled to hold over the reports of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Foyer Suisse and Swiss Mercantile Society; these will appear in our next number.

FOYER SUISSE, 15, Upper Bedford Pl., W.C.1

Sunday, June 8th.

GIRLS' AFTERNOON EXCURSION

to

FINSBURY PARK

Meet 4 p.m., inside Park, by Boathouse.

Leader: Mr. M. PRADERVAND.

Home News—(Continued)

much to his surprise and no doubt disgust, Mr. Michel, after opening the envelope, found the amount of two dollars and a few old newspapers.

T.G.

GENEVA.

On the occasion of the centenary of the independence of Belgium a great pageant will take place at Brussels. By special invitation of the "bourgmestre" of Brussels the Landwehr band will travel to the Belgian capital on the 14th inst. to take part in the festivities.

T.G.

LAUSANNE.

For some time a plumber named Keller was "walking out" with a 22-year-old servant girl. Frequent scenes of jealousy and rough treatment induced the girl to bid her all too ardent lover farewell, but the hero of this drama was not going to take this parting "lying down." In the darkness of the night he waylaid his former sweetheart, who was returning home with a girl friend; after an enquiry as to where she had spent the evening was made and an answer refused, the man fired a revolver at the two girls point blank, and then turned the weapon on himself. All three are now lying in hospital, the two girls are fortunately out of danger, whilst the too impetuous lover is fatally wounded.

T.G.

TICINO.

The President of the Conservative party of the Canton of Ticino, advocate Tarchini, has resigned from the National Council and will be replaced by advocate Celio.

The Grand Council has voted a credit of Frs. 50,000 for the erection of a radio receiving station on the Monte Generi.

A report from the pen of Dr. Tomarkin states that the Authorities of the Canton of Ticino are foremost in fighting consumptive diseases. The Cantonal Govt. has allotted a yearly subsidy of 500,000 francs and maintains over 250 beds for patients suffering from consumption.

During the last year more than 4,400 free consultations have been given costing the Authorities 63,000 francs. In addition to the official government support, numerous private institutions are actively at work to fight this devastating disease. It is reckoned that the total costs involved for this purpose are well over 1 million francs annually.

T.G.

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7 h.—Service du soir avec Communion.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Lundi 9 Juin 10 h.—Rendezvous devant Quai No. 4, Waterloo Station, pour promenade à Oxshott.

MARIAGES.

OSCAR LUTERBACHER, de Lohn (Soleure) et CONSTANCE MAUD EMERSON, de Londres—le 31 Mai.

THOMAS EDWARD DAUBENEY, de Cirencester (Glos.) et LINE PIU née Fader, de Bâle—le 2 Juin.

CONFIRMATION.

RONALD BOSSERT, fils d'Adolph et de Kate Louise née Smith, d'Orthmattigen (Argovie).

CHRISTINA DAELLENBACH, fille de Christian et de Frances Kate née Cole, d'Otterbach (Berne).

ELISABETH HELLER, fille de Joseph Alois et de Margaret née Galloway, de Grosswangen (Lucerne).

YVONNE KENYON, fille de James et de Claire née Magron, de Brémiggen (Berne).

DAISY KILCHENMANN, fille de Charles et de Rachel, née Berger de Herzogenbuchsee (Berne).

OLGA MEYER, fille d'Oscar et d'Elise née Schwiebel de Wanden (Berne).

LILIANE RICKLI, fille d'Ernest et d'Ida, née Bleiker de Thunstetten (Berne).

BERTHE WEIDELI, fille d'Oscar et de Berthe, née Brunner de Frauenfeld (Thurgovie).

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.3.

(near General Post Office.)

PFINGSTEN, den 8. Juni 1930, 11 Uhr morg.: Gottesdienst und Heilg. Abendmahl Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Heilg. Abendmahl.

Pfingstmontag, den 9. Juni 1930.

Ausflug in die "Chiltern Hills." Thee in Chalfont-St. Giles. Treffpunkt: Baker Street Metropolitan Station 10.30, Abfahrt 10.55 Uhr. Proviant mitnehmen. Cheap Walking Ticket to Rickmansworth return from Chorley Wood.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, June 11th at 7 p.m.—SOCIETE DES SECOURS MUTUELS: Committee Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, June 11th at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House.

Saturday, June 14th, at 2.45 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Gymkhana and Sports Meeting on the Club Ground, Preston Road.

Sunday, June 15th.—A.O.F.B., "SWISS VAT." Outing from Swiss Hotel, 53, Old Compton Street, W.1., at 10 a.m.

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—FÊTE SUISSE at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at the Range (see advert).

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