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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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FEDERAL.

PROFESSOR PICCARD'S FLIGHT.

M. Haeberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent the following telegram, to Professor Piccard, a compatriot of ours:

"Ich beglückwünsche Sie namens des Bundesrates zu der ausserordentlich kühnen, erfolgreichen und bahnbrechenden Tat, auf welche wir Eidgenossen alle mit Ihnen stolz sind."

Federal Councillor M. Pilet also sent a telegraphic message, to the two explorers:

"Im Namen des Eisenbahndepartementes und des Luftfahrtamtes dem Erschaffer des Stratosphären-Luftfahrzeugs, dem genialen Ballonführer, dem heroischen Forscher und seinem Assistenten herzliche Glückwünsche aus der Heimat."

MOTOR VEHICLES CENSUS.

During 1930, a total of 124,676 motor vehicles were in use in Switzerland, consisting of 60,735 buses, 46,421 motor cycles, 15,843 lorries, and 1,677 tractors.

EXPENDITURE ON SWISS RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION.

According to a report issued recently by the Union of Swiss Banks, a total of £27,176,000 has so far been expended by the Swiss Federal Railway authorities on railway electrification in the country. Of the total, £6,144,000 has been spent on power stations, £4,756,000 on contact lines, £2,964,000 on l.p. apparatus, £1,704,000 on transformer stations, £1,628,000 on transmission lines, and £9,980,000 on electrical rolling stock.

SWISS OFFICERS IN COLUMBIA.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gautier who is the head of the Swiss military mission to Columbia has received the permission of the Federal Council to join the Columbian army.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

A serious fire destroyed a part of the works of the Doctor A. Wunder A.G. in Berne. The alarm was given shortly before 1 o'clock p.m. and the fire brigade arrived promptly to find that part of the building was enveloped in flames. Unfortunately the loss of a life is to be registered. The wife of the housekeeper, was trapped by the fire, but was able to leap from the third floor, and although she was caught up, she had received such serious burns that she afterwards expired in hospital, her husband also was seriously burned. The damage is partly covered by insurance, but is nevertheless considered to be extensive.

N.Z.

* * *

A terrible tragedy occurred at Biel, where a certain Pedruzzini killed his former wife and then committed suicide. It is reported that the couple went through a divorce some time ago, and the husband left for Paris, whilst the wife took up a situation in a watch factory. Some time ago, Pedruzzini seemed to have returned to Biel, in order to induce his former wife to return to him, this she flatly refused, after a heated argument, which took place in a little Restaurant at the Ausseren Dufourstrasse, Pedruzzini fired two shots at his wife, killing her instantaneously, he then turned the weapon on himself and expired shortly after the arrival of the police.

N.Z.

* * *

The death is reported from Berne of M. Jakob Stalder, Editor of the "Schweizer Bauer" at the age of 62.

N.N.Z.

LUCERNE.

The Bank Sautier A.G. in Lucerne, suspended payments. Its deficit is estimated at 3,000,000f. The Bank offers its investors a settlement of 50 per cent. Its difficulties are said

to be due to the recent failure of the Deutsche Auto-Versicherungs A.G., Stuttgart.

F.N.

GLARUS.

On May the 25th, three sisters, the Misses Landolt from Naeffel, aged 15, 16 and 17, went on a trip to Oberseetal. When arriving at Waag, one of the sisters decided to take a foot bath, unfortunately she slipped, and fell into the lake at a very dangerous spot, the two sisters tried to help her, but owing to the slippery ground fell into the lake too, and as none of the girls were able to swim, they were drowned together. The bodies were later on washed on the shore.

T.S.P.

BASEL.

M. Bay, member of the Basle-Country government died at Liestal after a long illness. The deceased entered the cantonal government at the early age of 30, and belonged to this body until his death, namely 34 years.

N.Z.

GENEVA.

The State Council received a deputation of the unemployed, and after a lengthy discussion it was decided to make a grant of 100,000f. in aid of the unemployed, it has also been decided to start extensive works for road repairs and an amount of 236,000f. has been earmarked for this purpose.

* * *

The National Swiss Costume Fête will be held this year at Geneva on June 27th and 28th, when there will be a display of ancient and modern Swiss costumes by groups from all the Cantons and districts of the country, and 2,500 persons in national costume will take part in a parade.

ST. GALLEN.

The late Mlle. Scherrer from St. Gallen left a sum of 10,000 f. to the community of Ebnet Kappel to be distributed amongst the orphans of the district.

J.S.

LAUSANNE.

As part of the arrangements for the big Anglo-American Music Conference in August, we are informed that two British choirs are going to transport themselves to Lausanne. One is the South-West Choral Society and the other the boys' choir from Firth Park, Sheffield. In addition to these sporting units the conference is to have its own choir conducted by Professor W. G. Whittaker, of the University of Glasgow, and Bruce Carey, chorus-master of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

Performances will be given in the Cathedral at Lausanne, and it is expected that the choirs will give a short programme from a steamer on the lake on that evening (Aug. 1st) when Switzerland holds her Fête National and bonfires light up the mountain heights, and every town and village on the shore has its fireworks and other illuminations.

Sir Henry Hadow (British president) and Dr. John Erskine (American president) preside over the deliberations of the conference. Mr. Stanley Roper, organist to H.M. Chapel Royal, and Professor J. P. Marshall, of Boston University, have charge of the musical programmes.

N.N.Z.

BELLINZONA.

The congress of the "Jennesse Socialiste Suisse" was held last Sunday at Bellinzona. About 650 delegates, amongst them 150 lady members arrived by special train. In the procession, which was formed, over 1,000 persons were counted. On the "Place de l'Indépendance" a meeting was held, which was addressed by M. E. Patocchi, M. Canevacini, State Councillor and M. Grimm, National Councillor. During the afternoon a great number of the delegates made a trip to Lugano.

J.S.

* * *

An amount of 1,000f., out of the Federal Schiller Fund, was presented to M. Vittorio Frigerio, chief Editor of the "Corriere del Ticino" in recognition of his eminent works on home life in the Italian part of Switzerland.

J.S.

(Continued on back Page).

SWISS SPORTS AT HERNE HILL.

SATURDAY, MAY 30th, 1931.

Many anxious glances must have been cast heavenwards on that memorable Swiss Sports Saturday. I can well imagine the solicitous enquiries of the little ones, whether Daddy or Mummy would take them along to the "Sports." Well the sun brightly smiled at all enquirers, young and old, and before breakfast was over, the glad tidings, that Herne Hill would be the meeting place brought joy and happiness to many of the youngsters. But alas, the Swiss seem not to be in the good books of St. Peter, before lunch, threatening clouds assembled and shortly after the programme had started, rain set in and, with the exception of a few intervals, persistently kept us company.

At 2.30 p.m. a pistol shot rang out, and the first event had started, and in rapid succession the Flat Handicap races for men, boys and ladies followed each other. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this narrative I will, with a few exceptions, desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer. As usual these races were followed with great interest by the numerous onlookers and the winners each received a great and well deserved ovation.

The Committee this year dispensed with engaging a band, and the musical programme was provided by an Ampligram, which was "fed" from Mr. Newman's inexhaustable stock of Swiss gramophone records, the familiar tunes at once created a homely atmosphere and the Committee ought to be congratulated on this innovation. The announcing of the various events was done with the aid of a microphone, but this experiment was less successful, as the voice of the announcer did not come through very distinctly, and I for one would prefer the old fashioned way of using a megaphone.

Shortly before three o'clock, Monsieur Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame and the Misses Paravicini arrived and was received by M. de Cintra, Hon. Vice-President, who most efficiently deputised for the President, M. Ch. A. Barbezat, who was unavoidably prevented from being present, owing to his absence on the Continent. The proceedings were interrupted for a short time, whilst Monsieur Paravicini addressed the numerous gathering by expressing his pleasure at being once again able to be present at the Swiss Sports, an institution which has turned out to be year after year such an extremely successful and gay affair. He said that he would like to take this opportunity to mention the name of one, who has rendered eminent services to the sporting community both here and at home and ranked at one time amongst the greatest sportsmen which Switzerland has ever sent to Albion's shores, the late Mr. R. Oberholzer, who, only a few weeks ago had departed from us, much lamented by his many old friends. In order to honour his memory the Assembly was asked to pay a silent tribute, and during that short, most impressive silence, many thoughts must have gone back, to that staunch great sportsman whose achievements were not only a credit to himself but also to his country. In concluding, the Minister expressed the wish that all of the competitors in the various events would win.

This short, and very appropriate address was acknowledged with three hearty cheers in honour of Monsieur and Madame Paravicini. A special interest was created by the Veteran's 440 yds. walking Handicap for men over 40; which was won by M. Donati, who by his victory, became the owner of the beautiful Challenge Cup having won it for three consecutive years. It was almost a foregone conclusion, as M. Donati, right from the beginning, set up a pace which gave his fellow competitors a hard nut to crack. Amongst the entrants for this event I perceived the popular Hon. Treasurer lined up in his fullest glory with a confident and determined air on his face, and the participation in this race filled me with considerable envy. Had I not as many years to my credit as he, and why should I not have the pluck to join these valiant men? there was even more than mere envy, a feeling of unaccountable jealousy took hold of me, which shortly afterwards however, turned into not less creditable joy, when, after having walked but a few yards, our friend left the track and the field to his fellow companions. The reason of such an inglorious ending was not apparent then, but I think he

vindicated himself splendidly at a later event of which I shall have something further to say, and his dropping out, was no doubt a clever stroke of policy.



M. Donati, Winner of the Veterans' 440 yds.

Walking Handicap.

It rained very hard when the two teams for the tug of war (Union Helvetic and Cercle Valaisan) took the field, their appearance was very well stage managed and most impressive. Each team consisting of six men, was accompanied by their manager walking in single file on to the track, with the accompanying tune of the "Bärner Marsch." As usual this item proved most interesting, it was however again almost a foregone conclusion that the splendidly trained team of the Cercle Valaisan, the winners of the previous cup, would give evidence of the superior training. The Unione Helvetic team made strenuous efforts to carry off the victory, but there seemed to be not the same "entrain," and no doubt the better side won. When leaving the field, both teams received a hearty ovation, but the victorious Valaisans came in for an extra share.

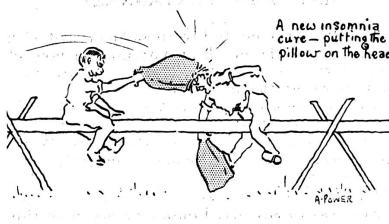


Amongst the classical races, the Relay Race, caused a big stir amongst the spectators, and when it was announced that the Unione Ticinese team won this event for the third consecutive time, thus becoming the owner of the much coveted cup, a mighty cheer was raised. There were innumerable races for little boys and girls, and also for grown up, which were full of amusing incidents, some of the little participants flatly refused to move when the starting signal was given and not even the most appealing shouts from their anxious parents could make them change their minds, they treated the judges with utter contempt.

In the long and high jump competition, M. Singer (S.M.S.) took both 1st honours, 20ft. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and 5ft. 5 ins. respectively, a most creditable performance which was much applauded. The 440 yds. Flat Handicap was won by M. Duvani (Pagan's Rest.) 14yds. 54 sec., which proved to be almost a record. The winner of the 220 yds. Flat Handicap was M. Baehler (Swiss Federal Railway) who finished in grand style. Very attractive proved to be the 100 yds. Flat Handicap which was won in fine style by Master O. F. Boehringer, this elegant sprinter will no doubt be in time, a dangerous competitor in the senior class.

The fancy events such as the Cigarette-Egg and Spoon Race (mixed) found many entrants; unfortunately the rain somehow interfered with the performance of these items, which are usually much appreciated by the spectators, giving cause for much merriment. The larger part of the onlookers preferred the shelter of the Pavilion, and thus missed much of the fun.

It was a matter for congratulation that during the Pillow Fight the sun graciously consented to appear. A long queue efficiently marshalled by Mr. P. F. Boehringer lined up, surrounded by a large crowd of merry spectators, who greeted each winner with a salvo of applause. Through my mind flashed a thought to invite some of my friends, who have so often teased me about the S.O. by hurling more or less complimentary epithets at my innocent head, to meet me on the pole, and I could imagine with what lusty force, I would have swung my pillow round their moking faces, but then, a second less assuring thought seemed to calm my passion for revenge, the thought that they might hit back equally hard or perhaps even harder, and that I could hardly put a brick in my cushion, as this would not be very sportsman like, and so I decided to abstain from participation.



A new insomnia cure—putting the pillow on the head.

The last event on the programme was the Daily Mail Pushball Match in which the S.M.S. beat the Swiss Rifle Association by three goals to nil, it was strikingly a win of youth over "matured" age, the score was however rather flattering the winner too much, as the Rifle Association put up a gallant fight, the Hon. Treasurer making full amends for his inglorious exit from the veteran's race, he worked like a giant, and jumped like a youngster, indeed he exhibited a wonderful degree of stamina. Two equally famous members of the S.R.A., one, whose hobby is singing, and the other a sturdy figure, who used, a few years ago, to play a prominent part in the tug of war competitions, were rather roughly knocked about, and malicious tongues would have it, that they partook previously of a beverage, which grows somewhere in the vicinity of Neuchâtel, thus limiting their visions of sober judgment, but this, I am sure, is sheer malevolent blackmail.

In my official capacity as Press Reporter I had the privilege of visiting competitions which were not marked on the programme, and I was able to ascertain that our compatriots were not less efficient in this field of activity. From two mysterious looking vehicles, bottles, containing delicious vintages grown in our homeland, disappeared amongst the spectators, there was no money taken, I was assured, which no doubt added greatly to the attraction. On approaching these hospitable quarters I was asked by one of Bacchus admirers, whether I could tell him exactly where the sports were taking place, and when informing him, that the last event had just taken place, he seemed to be greatly upset, whilst I saw another one, gently being led away by two ambulance men, when enquiring about the cause of his distress, I was told that this unfortunate man suffered from an illusion of having won the first prize in the Irish Sweepstake. Full of deep human understanding I turned my back from this unfortunate fellow countryman, and entered the lower part of the Pavilion, when sounds entered my ears as if a rifle match was in progress in one of the many compartments. Being aware that almost the whole of the S.R.A. was at Herne Hill, I perceived with my noted quickness that a sort of miniature range must have been erected, and cautiously I opened the door, in case one of the bullets through some reason or other should take the wrong turning, thus finishing a young and promising life, when, much to my relief and delight, I discovered that the sound was caused through the incessant opening of more bottles, and that the target was the thirsty throats of some of the Committee Members. Hospitality has always been a strong point with the Swiss, and a most pressing invitation from some high official, to partake of a sip out of the loving cup, made me almost forget that the hour for the presentation of the prizes was imminent, one more longing look was cast behind and bravely I wended my way to the upper regions.

Madame Paravicini having, owing to a previous engagement, not been able to present the prizes, Madame de Cintra, the charming wife of the Hon. Vice President took her place, and rewarded each prize-winner with a dainty handshake and a most winning smile. The winners belonging to the various Societies or firms were heartily cheered by their fellow members who repeated in unisono

SMS. SMS. SMS.!!! SRA. SRA. SRA.!!!
(Swiss Mercant.) (Swiss Rifle)

SBC. SBC. SBC.!!!
(Swiss Bank)

or as the case may be, a procedure which caused

much amusement. The President of the S.M.S., M. Paschoud, received a great ovation when the Georges Dimier Challenge Cup was presented to him, as the official representative of his Society, they having won it for the largest aggregate result. The prize presented by Mr. Gerber for the best performance of the day was awarded to Mr. S. Singer. When the last prize had found its owner, Mr. de Cintra, who officiated in such an efficient manner, addressed the gathering shortly, asking for three cheers for the absent President of the Swiss Sports, M. Ch. A. Barbezat; he was followed by Mr. Seini, who most appropriately thanked M. and Mme. de Cintra for the way in which they carried out a not easy task, and the three cheers asked for them were heartily responded to. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Mme. de Cintra. A telegram from our friend M. Isler in Guernsey was read, conveying his best greetings.

Coming to the summing up, I can safely say that this year's Swiss Sports have again proved to be a big success. The rather long drawn intervals in which the field seemed to be almost deserted can hardly be blamed on to the organisers, but the weather, which behaved in such an unkind manner, must take the chief blame. It goes without saying that one came here and there across some grumbler, but that can not be helped, as a matter of fact, I made some time ago a resolution to the effect, that the day my compatriots cease to grumble I would make an application at the Home Office for taking out my naturalization papers as a British subject. However one question I would like the Committee to study for future meetings, namely the most inconvenient display of the prizes in the Pavilion. Would it not be possible to exhibit these, say under a marquee just below or at the side of the Pavilion? The present position is about the most awkward and inadequate one which can be found, as some of the spectators can testify by their unpleasant experiences.

The organisers of this year's Swiss Sports deserve the thanks of both competitors and spectators and I wish to single out, apart from those already mentioned, M. de Maria, the Hon. Secretary, who proved to be such an untiring worker. The Meeting was well attended, as nearly eight hundred spectators and competitors passed the gates, a striking proof of the popularity which the "Sports" enjoy amongst the members of the Colony and their friends; it was indeed a large family gathering in the real sense of the word.

On casting a last glance back, when leaving the sports grounds, I saw the members of H.M. Police force, who were in attendance throughout the afternoon, being marshalled into the Committee Room, headed by the Hon. Treasurer, loaded with heavy bags. I had no information what these mysterious looking articles contained, nor did I see the guardians of law and order emerge, but of one thing I am sure, that they left their "heat" that day, convinced that the Swiss are good "Sports" in more than one respect.

The Official Press Reporter.

RESULTS.

100 yds. Flat Handicap (Men) 1st. O. Luescher, (Swiss Bank) 5 yds. 10 2/5. 2nd. J. Meschini (Unione Ticinese) 3 1/2 yds. 3rd. F. A. Pont (Union Helvetic) 9 yds.

Putting the Weight. 1st. S. Singer (S.M.S.) 32 yds. 4 ft. 2nd. O. Luescher (Swiss Bank) 29 yds. 8 1/2 ft. 3rd. M. O. Henchoz (S.M.S.) 29 yds. 7 ft.

440 yds. Veterans Walking Handicap (Challenge Cup won outright). 1st. C. Donati (Unione Ticinese) age 42, 2nd. E. Oggier (Cercle Valaisan). 3rd. J. Oltramare (City Swiss Club). 4th. G. Riederer (Swiss Club). 5th. Von Bergen. 6th. Charnaux

440 yds. Flat Handicap (Members of Subscribing firms): 1st. T. Duvani (Pagan's Rest.) 14 yds. 54 secs. 2nd. J. Y. H. Bowden (Nestle & Anglo Swiss) 13 yds. 3rd. G. Sanpietro (Savoy Hotel) 5 yds.

Long Jump 1st. S. Singer (S.M.S.) 20 ft. 11 1/2 ins. 2nd. O. Luescher (Swiss Bank) 19 ft. 4 ins. 3rd. H. Gerber (S.M.S.) 19 ft. 3 1/2 ins.

High Jump 1st. S. Singer (S.M.S.) 5 ft. 5 ins. 2nd. E. W. Casada (Unione Ticinese) 5 ft. 3 ins. 3rd. H. Gerber (S.M.S.) 5 ft. 3 ins.

Tug of War: Cercle Valaisan beat Unione Helvetic by 2 pulls to none.

220 yds. Flat Handicap: 1st. H. Baehler (Swiss Federal Railways) 10 yds. 23 4/5. 2nd. O. Luescher (Swiss Bank) 11 yds. 3rd. W. Meier (S.M.S.) Scratch.

Relay Race: Unione Ticinese Winners (Win Challenge Cup outright). Union Helvetic, Runners up.

120 yds. Veterans Handicap: 1st. F. A. Pont (Union Helvetic) 6 yds. 12 4/5. 2nd. H. H. Baumann (S.M.S.) 8 yds. 3rd. E. Oggier (Cercle Valaisan) 9 yds.

Pushball : S.M.S. beat Swiss Rifle by 3 goals to 0. **100 yds. Flat Handicap for Boys** : 1st. O. F. Boehringer (3 yds.) 12 secs. 2nd. N. Hartmann (Scratch).

100 yds. Ladies in Sports Costume : 1st. C. Land (Vernon A. C.) 7 yds. 12 2/5. 2nd. F. E. Wickes (Unattached) 5 yds. 3rd. M. A. Smith (Regent A. C.) 2 yds.

100 yds. Ladies in Towntress : Heat 1—Miss Sykora, 2nd. Miss R. Wood, 3rd. Miss Grobacher.

Heat 2—1st. Phyllis Lilliewhite, 2nd. Madame Lachat, 3rd. Miss M. Schmid.

Cigarette Race : Heat 1—Miss Fuchs and Mr. B. Rhein, Mrs. Petit and Mr. D. Dybeler.

Heat 2—Miss M. A. Smith and Mr. E. Oggier, Miss Archer and Mr. Liell.

Girls 60 yds. Handicap : Heat 1—Hauswirth, Marcel Duvain, Marian Baumann; Chappuis and June Kessel d.h.

Heat 2—Dorothy Kimmouth, M. Schmid, Gabrielle De Cintra, Berenice Blick.

Heat 3—Alice Hartmann, Irene Esnault and Pauline Dupraz d.h., Marg. Baumann, Olive Gujerly.

Heat 4—Lydia Jaeggi, Mary Henderson B. Martin, Hartmayer.

Boys 80 yds. Handicap : Heat 1—Alfred Arm, Edward Naef, John Notari, Raymond Oggier.

Heat 2—Bernard Jaeggi, Hardmeier, J. Mueller, Peter Silvani.

Heat 3—George Bernard, Leon Jaeggi, Ernest Volker, Teddy Baumann.

Heat 4—Henry Cresse, C. Knight, Tchanz, G. Borgeat.

Pillow Fight : 1st. K. Mueller, 2nd. J. Christen, 3rd. M. O. Henchoz, 4th. E. A. Nussle.

Three Legged Race : Heat 1—Miss Doris Hauswirth and Mr. Pianca, Miss L. Jaeggi and Mr. L. Jaeggi.

Heat 2—Miss B. Lillywhite and Mr. Kuenzli, Miss E. M. Leon and Mr. Potter.

Egg and Spoon Race : Heat 1—Pauline Dupraz, 2nd. Gladys Hauswirth.

Heat 2—1st. Gabrielle De Cintra, 2nd. F. Zgraggen.

Heat 3—1st. Rosina Linder, 2nd. G. Oltramare.

Heat 4—1st. Miss Lillywhite, 2nd. Miss Archer.

Shooting Competition 300 yds. Field Target :

1st. Adolf Schmid 47 points (max. 50); 2nd. A. Fuchs 46 pts., 3rd. A. Rhyn 45 pts.

100 yds. Match Target : 1st. Alfred Schmid 93 points (max. 100), 2nd A. Lampert sen. 93, 3rd. A. Lampert jun. 91 pts.

George Dimier Challenge Cup : Winners S.M.S. 23 points.

Union Ticinese 16 points, Swiss Bank 13 points, Union Helvetia 11 points, Cercle Valaisan 9 points, Swiss Federal Railways 5 points, Swiss Rifle Association 2 points, City Swiss Club 1 point.

Prize presented by Mr. E. Gerber for the best performance of the day was awarded to Mr. S. Singer (S.M.S.) for having won the High Jump and Long Jump with excellent performances.

ANT. JOHN FONTANNAZ†

The Swiss Colony in Liverpool has heard with great regret of the death at Varennna on lake of Como, of their former Consul A. J. Fontannaz, from Geneva, at the age of 71.

Mr. Fontannaz was made Vice-Consul in 1910 and resigned in 1914.

On the resignation of Mr. George G. Weiss then Consul, also of Geneva, in 1916 Mr. Fontannaz was asked to be Consul, an office which he accepted and retained till 1926.

Needless to say Mr. Fontannaz accepted this post in a time of great difficulty and the work thrown on him was considerable, since he had a very large district to look after, which has since been divided up into the Consulates of Manchester, Glasgow and Hull.—Hull has now been given up.

Mr. Fontannaz was a well known business man in Liverpool, largely identified with the West African trade.

In Swiss circles his work was acknowledged when he retired by a dinner and the presentation of a suitable memento.

It is a satisfaction to be able to record that since the creation of the Consulate of Liverpool in 1819, the Swiss Government has always been able to call on a devoted citizen to act as honorary Consul and not the least merit in Mr. Fontannaz was that he undertook without hesitation this responsibility when the strain of war was upon us.

To his widow and family we express our heartfelt sympathy in their loss.

Liverpool, 3rd June, 1931. L.F.

“Die Englaender am Zuericher Sechseläuten.”

(Continued)

We have the very best of souvenirs from the Zurich's Sechseläuten. The impression we got during those two days will endear Zurich to us for ever and as we are both "Zurich Burger" we shall make a special point of going there in years to come in order to complete our experience of the Sechseläuten. This time we only took part as far as the children were concerned, but as stated before the Stadtzunft was in our Hotel and we noticed that there was a good deal more attached to the festivities from which we were excluded, the happy faces we saw everywhere around us, justifies our desire to go back later and complete our experience. We might then also get to the bottom of the only mystery, which we have not solved, namely the following.

Daddy told us and Mummy, that the reason he only came home at 4 o'clock in the morning was the speechifying which was indulged by the visiting Zunfts. It appears that one of the Zunfts, Dad would not mention any names, had the bright idea of appointing two speakers to express on their behalf the instructions received from the Zunftmeister to the various other Zunfts they were visiting. This expressing of greetings is one of the customs which has been handed down by past generations, and has to be kept up; hence the oratorial displays of various Swiss abroad.

In this particular case the innovation of appointing two speakers instead of one was no doubt due to the fact that there was so much to say and they were afraid that one man could not possibly deal with it, but even so, the Zunftmeister who appointed the two speakers has very sadly underestimated their individual capacity.

Whatever the reason for this innovation may be, the effect was certainly most unexpected. They both took their mission very much to heart, were determined to do justice to their Mandate and they jolly well did it, irrespective of the effect on the poor audience.

Not even the Brass bands of other visiting Zunfts could cool those speakers ardour, nor stop the flow of their oratory and some of the Zunfts who came to visit us got tired of waiting and had to depart without having completed their visit. One of these had a real Bear with them, who appeared to be very human, was rather thirsty and consumed a good deal of wine, like any ordinary

participant. What funny bears they have in Switzerland with such a capacity for wine drinking.

By the way, these visiting Zunfts, bring their own supply of wine with them, and from what we saw from the Balcony of the Hotel, the supply never ran short; they must have had a good stock with them.

Now I would like to know what our friends "Kyburg, ST., and ck." the eminent contributors of the Swiss Observer would say, if this innovation of appointing two speakers instead of one to deal with the same subject would be extended to the Banquet of the City Swiss Club or other Swiss Societies here in London.

Their searchlights of public criticism would be kept going at full blast, and the audiences would then have real reason to complain. Anyone of those speakers of Zurich if brought here to London could beat most, if not all of our local Swiss orators.

Therefore dear "Kyburg, ST., and ck." I recommend you to go to Zurich at the Sechseläuten and write your impression for the Swiss Observer on your return. I am sure that those Zurich speakers said all they had to say, a good deal more than they were supposed to say and a lot more than they should have said.

Now, we do not want to be misunderstood, we have no reason, nor do we wish to criticise the "Zürcher Festrednerei" they can do as they like, and they jolly well do it, we merely tell you all this, as a consolation; after all we are not so badly off. Having seen what effect this listening to oratorial performances all the evening had on our poor Dad, we fully agree with you to clip the wings of anyone, who would indulge in such performances here.

Our Daddy was remarkably silent the greater part of next day, his hat seemed not to fit too well, it was somewhat small and heavy. The only answer we and our Mammy could extract from him in reply to our anxious enquiries about his health was "Nichts ist schwerer zu ertragen wie eine Reihe von schönen Tagen" or "Lerne zu Leiden ohne zu Klagen!"

However, all this cloud on the horizon did not last long and by the time we were in Lausanne greeted by the happy smiles of our kind friends who came to the station, all seemed to be alright and we started in Lausanne with a clean sheet and full of enterprise.

Besides the Sechseläuten we have learned to appreciate the following Specialities in Zurich

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAY

DEVELOPMENTS.

The work on the second portion of the immense new marshalling-yard of the Swiss Federal Railways at Muttenz is advancing rapidly. The first part, which deals with south and eastbound traffic, was completed in 1929, and the new tracks are being laid to the north of this; new connections, involving the construction of several bridges, are also being built. The whole arrangement is most up-to-date, with colour-light signals, hydraulic retarders, electrically-operated points, pneumatic tubes, and so on.

Work in connection with the first part of the second stage of the Swiss Federal Railways' electrification programme is also proceeding quickly, the lines from Biel and Neuchâtel to La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle being among the most difficult to deal with, as two long tunnels have to be enlarged on the line from Neuchâtel, and a high steel bridge to be replaced by a stone one on that from Biel. Further lines to be electrified during the second stage are: Basle - Délémont, Delle - Délémont, Berne-Langnau-Lucerne, Zurich-Zug via Afloltern (the old line), Wallisellen-Ulster-Rapperswil, and Uznach-Ziegelbrücke. When these have been dealt with, there will remain very few lines of any importance still worked by steam.

H.

NEW SWISS MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.

Visitors to Switzerland this year will have available the new Funicular railway to the summit of the Brienz-Rothorn. The summit (7,720 feet) commands a magnificent view and embraces the whole of the Appenzel, Uri, Engelberg and Bernese Alps. This railway has been closed during and since the War, but in earlier years the Brienz-Rothorn was visited by many thousands.

Those who are visiting the "William Tell" Pastoral Plays at Interlaken will be able from this centre to make the Rothorn excursion in addition to the popular visits to the summit of the Niesen and to the restaurant built in the mountain-side at 12,000 feet, overlooking the Jungfrau glacier.

Special reductions in fares are being made for parties visiting the "William Tell" plays at Interlaken.

and in Switzerland—

1. Schweinsrippi with Sauerkraut
2. St. Galler Schüblinge
3. Rösti mit Bratwurst
4. Mehlsuppe and Habersuppe
5. Servelat mit Nüsslisalat.

We are trying to find a place here in London where we can now and again indulge in the above specialities which we understand a good Swiss must consume from time to time. Whilst doing so, we shall dream of the happy days we spent in Switzerland.

There are also such things as snaps, Zuger Kirschwasser, etc., which we have not tasted ourselves, but which we have seen people pour into the Caffee. What a lot of things we have to do when next we go to Switzerland.

The foregoing description of our visit to Switzerland is much longer than we at first intended it to be, but then, we have seen so many things that we must at least try to tell our friends as much as we can, in case you should not, dear Mr. Editor, open your columns a second time to us.

Thanking you very much for your kind consideration and asking the indulgence of the readers for anything they might not find to their special taste, we have the honour to be, dear Mr. Editor,

THE END.



The Two Young Authors in a Family Group at the Zurich Sechseläuten.