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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

HEAT WAVE IN SWITZERLAND.

The abnormal heat which has prevailed in Switzerland since the beginning of last week is causing the snow to melt rapidly on the mountains, with the result that some rivers are overflowing their banks. The level of the Rhône at the bridge of St. Maurice, which is generally 14ft., was 30ft. yesterday. The river broke its banks towards the evening near Aigle. The river Arve has already overflowed its banks near Sallanches.

A fire which broke out on Saturday is raging in the forest on the mountain slopes above Salquenen in Canton Valais. It is stirred up by warm wind, and has already destroyed one square mile of forest.

THE WORLD'S HEIGHT RECORD.

The Swiss Aero Club has examined the barographs carried by Professor Piccard and Dr. Kipfer in their balloon flight on May 27-28 and find that they reached a height of 15,781 metres (51,485 ft.). This figure has been officially registered by the Swiss Aero Club and has been submitted to the *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* for homologation as a World's Record for balloons—though it is in fact a record for any type of aircraft.

RADIO SUISSE ROMANDE PROGRAMME TIME.

With the official opening of the new Bero-münster high-power station, which took place on June 11, the present Zürich transmitter closed down. The programme time of Radio Suisse Romande (Sottens) is divided up into two equal parts of 30 per cent. each of the total for Geneva and Lausanne respectively, the remaining 40 per cent. being reserved for orchestral concerts and the like organised by both companies together or by the All-Swiss Company.

GIANT WRIST-WATCH

One hundred and twenty times larger than an ordinary wrist-watch, a giant specimen weighing 13 lb. has just been completed for exhibition purposes by a Swiss firm. The jewels in it alone cost £50.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS WIRELESS STATION.

The League of Nations is to have its own wireless station. This station, known as Radio Nations, will consist of a longwave station already in operation, built and owned by the Radio-Swiss Company, and of a shortwave station established and owned by the League. In normal times, both stations will be run by the Radio-Swiss Company, but on a simple statement by the Council that a crisis exists they will pass under the authority of the League and be run by the League.

ANOTHER GLIDE AROUND THE ALPS.

The Swiss airman Farner took off last week in a glider from the top of the Jungfrauoch, a height of 11,090 feet. He made one or two circuits at this great height and then flew over the Lütschinen Valley, finally landing near the village of the same name. The flight lasted exactly one hour and 45 minutes.

(This was the second flight made from the Jungfrauoch, the first having been made the previous day by the German Grunhoff.)

"NIPPIES" WIN IN SWITZERLAND.

Rowing girls from Messrs. Lyons, London, carried off for Britain the first prize trophy for the international rowing contests on Lake Lucerne.

A SWISS INTERNATIONAL MEETING.

The 1931 Swiss International motor boat meeting will be held on Lake Geneva on August 15th and 16th. On the Saturday there will be 16-kilometre races for A, B, C, and Unlimited Class outboard boats, and events for cruisers and 12-litre and Unlimited Class hydroplanes.

On Sunday there will be further outboard, cruiser and 12-litre events, also races for standard runabouts with engines not exceeding 225 b.h.p.

LOCAL.

ZÜRICH.

M. Robert J. F. Schwarzenbach, the late Swiss Consul General at New York has left a legacy amounting to 200,000fr. to the University of Zurich. This money is to be used principally for acquiring old documents of historical importance.

N.N.Z.

BERNE.

The "William Tell" Pastoral Plays have started at Interlaken last Sunday. The performance is a repetition of the plays which were given, with the greatest success in the years 1912-1914. There are about 250 amateur performers who, through this customary participation in the local theatricals, are trained for the work to some extent. The auditorium of the Tell plays has a seating capacity for 1,500 spectators, the prices ranging from 3-20fr. plus 10 per cent. "Community Tax."

The days fixed for the performances are:—June 14, 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; September 6, 13.

The opening performance was a huge success and we hope that many of our compatriots will make it a point to pay a visit to Interlaken, in order to see this performance.

BASLE.

The Grand Council has voted a credit of 4½ Million francs for the acquirement of the "Sandgrube" Estate, a further credit of nearly 3 Million francs was passed for the building of the "Dreirosenbrücke."

N.Z.

Dr. Felix Weingartner, the famous Austrian conductor, has applied for Swiss naturalisation papers, he wishes to become a citizen of Basle.

N.Z.

FRIBOURG.

The 100 Anniversary of the entrance of the Canton of Fribourg into the Confederation will be celebrated on July 5th. The Government will be represented by Federal Councillors Motta and Minger.

N.Z.

GENEVA.

The National Swiss Costume Fête will be held this year at Geneva on June 27 and 28, 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.

The widow of the late Federal Councillor Ruchonnet has died at Cully after a short illness.

N.Z.Z.

LUGANO.

M. E. Humitzsch, a wellknown personality in the banking world in Switzerland celebrated last week his 50th service anniversary. He started his career with the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, and after many years of successful services with this institution, joined the National Bank at Lucerne as Manager. In 1919 he was called at the head of the Banca Unione di Credito in Lugano, of which Institution he was manager for eleven years. A few months ago he was promoted to the Presidency of the Board of this important Bank which is closely related with the Credito Italiano.

N.N.Z.

MONTREUX.

The police have been successful in laying hands on the person, who during the Narcissus Festival damaged altogether 43 show windows with a diamond thus causing damage to over 20,000fr. He is a Russian called Malegtschiff who lives at Fribourg.

N.Z.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

ZWINGLI'S THEORY OF CHURCH AND STATE.

(Continued)

But with the problem of the right of resistance Zwingli becomes once more a theologian. He goes indeed a good deal further than Luther, holding that subjects, in so far as they are true believers, have not only a right but a duty to sit in judgment upon their ruler. But the right of resistance rests not on legal but solely on religious grounds. His position is a perfectly logical one. The supreme end of the State is the promotion of the true religion. But under a tyranny this end cannot be achieved. The state thus loses its *rationale* and those who are responsible for its direction must be replaced by others. If the people acquiesce in accepting an un-Christian government, they become partakers in the sins of their rulers and will suffer for it as did the Children of Israel for their failure to reject Saul. But the "ungodly prince" must be deposed by constitutional means. This in Zwingli's opinion presents no difficulty, for those from whom he has received his power clearly have the right to take it from him if he abuses it. But there must be no violence, and if "das ganz volk" or "der grosse teil" are unable to agree upon this matter the rule of the tyrant must be endured as a mark of the divine anger. At the same time we must as individuals obey God rather than man, and refuse to comply with any command which is contrary to Scripture. Upon the question of tyrannicide he is careful not to commit himself. In a letter to Blaurer he gives it as his opinion that those Catholic Bishops who persist in their opposition to the Gospel may justifiably be put to death and Kreutzer argues that he would in extreme cases have approved of similar action against the "ungodly ruler." But he nowhere openly recommends it.

Zwingli's teaching upon the state, if not very original, contains at least an outspoken assertion of the duty of rulers and of the rights of their subjects. It is substantially the same as that of Calvin, though the Genevan reformer was faced with larger political issues and was not prepared to authorise the right of resistance in such uncompromising language. Zwingli's attempt to define the relations between church and state led him, however, into greater difficulties and has exposed him to severe criticism. He agrees with Luther in recognising both an invisible and a visible church. The former he at first defined as consisting of all believers at all times, but after his experiences with the Anabaptists he narrowed its membership to the community of the predestined. On the other hand, the visible Church consisted of all who made a public profession of their faith, whatever their true spiritual condition. The unit of the visible Church should be the parish or community (*Gemeinde*), which should be autonomous and possess the right of self-administration. This at least was Zwingli's first position. He did not anticipate that unity of doctrine could in any way be endangered by such an arrangement, for if men would only consent to be led by the Bible they could not, he believed, fail to reach the same conclusions. But in practice the Church of Zurich was organised upon somewhat different lines. Its affairs were administered by the Council, and though that body sought the opinion of the ministers it acted at all times upon its own authority. As far as Zwingli was personally concerned it was an extremely satisfactory arrangement. Towards the end of 1524 it became evident that the Council of the Two Hundred was too large a body to perform expeditiously the multifarious business which the Reformation had occasioned. Its executive powers were therefore transferred to a Council of six persons—the *Heimliche Rat*—of whom Zwingli was one,