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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## FEDERAL.

### SWISS BUDGET.

The Budget of the Swiss Confederation for 1931, just passed by Parliament, estimates expenditure at £16,128,000, and receipts at £15,820,000, thus leaving an estimated deficit of £308,000, while it had been expected that the Budget would record a surplus. The estimated deficit is not due to a drop in receipts, but to an increase in expenditure, which is £840,000 higher than last year in consequence of various extraordinary subsidies. For example, £170,000 has been granted for the regularization of the Rhine, £56,000 for the Federal Polytechnical High School in Zurich, £80,000 for primary schools, £112,000 for unemployed insurance, and £30,000 for professional education. Moreover, and despite a certain opposition on the part of the Socialists, Parliament agreed to grant £160,000 for the reorganization and re-equipment of the Air Corps, and £112,000 for national defence and the purchase of military material and equipment.

### SWISS CENSUS, 1930.

The following official figures regarding the Swiss Census taken last month have been published:

Cantons	1930	1920
Zurich	616,961	538,602
Berne	686,400	674,394
Lucerne	189,455	177,073
Uri	23,017	23,973
Schwyz	63,002	59,731
Obwalden	19,386	17,567
Nidwalden	15,100	13,956
Glarus	35,666	33,843
Zug	34,406	31,569
Fribourg	143,393	143,055
Soleure	144,578	130,671
Baselstadt	153,624	140,708
Baselland	92,643	82,390
Schaffhausen	51,227	50,428
Appenzell A. Rh.	48,927	55,354
Appenzell I. Rh.	13,981	14,614
St. Gallen	285,893	295,543
Graubünden	126,459	119,854
Aargau	260,002	240,776
Thurgau	135,706	135,933
Vaud	331,323	317,498
Valiens	137,741	128,246
Neuchâtel	124,704	131,349
Genève	173,308	171,000

The figures for the Canton of Ticino are not yet available. It is estimated that the population of Switzerland per 1st December, 1930, will be about 4,056,000 compared with 3,887,000 in 1920, an increase of 169,000.

### RECEPTION AT THE PALAIS FEDERAL.

M. Häberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, received a visit of the diplomatic corps *in corpore* on New Year's day.

### OPPOSITION TO TOBACCO DUTY.

The Central Committee of the Communist party has decided to initiate a Referendum against the tobacco and cigarette tax which has been passed by Parliament.

### A SUBVENTION FOR THE PRESS.

The Federal Council has granted an amount of 5,000 francs towards the cost of erecting and maintaining a permanent home for Journalists accredited to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

### MITTELHOLZER'S AFRICAN FLIGHT.

The Swiss Aviator Mittelholzer arrived at Thies near Dakar on his return flight from Africa. N.Z.Z.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Emile Zuber, a bank clerk, who met with an accident when skiing on the Flums mountain, has succumbed to his injuries. N.Z.Z.

A burglary took place at the premises of Messrs. Halder, Sports Outfitters, at Mühlegasse, where large quantities of goods were stolen. N.Z.Z.

## BERNE.

King Albert of Belgium and his Queen have arrived at Murren, where they intend to make a prolonged stay.

\*\*\*

Miss Beatrice Marbach, daughter of the proprietor of the Hotel Bären in Berne, has lost her life on the Männlichen, having been overtaken and buried by an avalanche when on a ski-ing expedition.

N.Z.Z.

The "Burgdorfer Tagblatt" has celebrated its 100th anniversary.

N.Z.Z.

## GLARUS.

A party consisting of fifteen Germans who were on a ski-ing tour on the Wichenalp, fell into a crevasse and were buried by a mass of snow. Twelve members of the expedition managed to free themselves, but the other three, Dr. H. Clare and the Misses E. Klöttner and H. Gelpke, all from Berlin, lost their lives.

N.Z.Z.

SLT.

V.

BASLE.

The Senate of the University of Basle has conferred on M. H. Haeberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, the degree of "doctor honoris causa" in recognition of his eminent works on Federal law.

N.Z.Z.

## AARAU.

M. A. Roniger-Hurliman, Manager of the Feldschloessli Brewery at Rheinfelden, has made several bequests to public and private institutions, amounting to 32,500 frs., on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

A.T.

\*\*\*

August Schmid, 39, a bricklayer, was run over and killed by a motor car whilst crossing the road at Frick. The car, which was travelling in the direction of Basle, did not stop.

N.Z.Z.

NEUCHATEL.

A fatal accident has occurred in a train travelling between Vaudreuil and Saint-Aubin. A passenger, M. J. Schmid, 64 years old, tried to pass from one carriage to another, when he slipped on the platform, which was covered with ice. He fell underneath the train and was killed instantaneously.

N.Z.Z.

## ST. GALL.

On New Year's Eve, a fire destroyed four homesteads with two stables at Gretschins, depriving seven families, numbering 23 persons, of their homes. The houses being insufficiently insured, heavy losses will be sustained by those who have been already so sorely tried.

N.Z.Z.

J.S.P.

SCAFFHOUSE.

The death is reported of M. Traugott Waldvogel, National Councillor, who played a prominent part in the affairs of his canton. M. A. Rahm, a member of the Grand Council and adherent to the Peasant party, will succeed to the seat in the National Council.

J.S.P.

GRAUBUENDEN.

A native of St. Gallen, who spent his Christmas holiday at St. Moritz, presented a sum of 10,000 frs. to the Mairie as a gift for the poor of the parish.

J.S.P.

\*\*\*

The Cantonal Government has sent an exposé to the Federal Dept. of Post and Railways in Berne setting forth the reason why they oppose the project of the Piz-Bernina Railway, proposed by the Communities of Samaden and Pontresina.

GRINDELWALD.

Johann Baumann, the veteran peasant of Grindelwald, well known to many visitors to that Alpine resort, died on January 3rd at the age of 91 years. Baumann, in his younger days, was one of the most famous guides.

J.G.

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## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

### 1931—1931=14.

Seven being a holy or lucky number, 1931 is going to be doubly lucky for all of us! q.e.d.

### A good friend of Switzerland.

*The Times*, 3rd January, 1931:

Mr. J. A. B. Bruce, whose death is recorded in *The Times* of January 1, was a very well-known figure in mountaineering circles both here and in Switzerland. No one in this country did so much as he in bringing together British and Swiss climbers. He realized many years ago that British climbers in the Alps did not as a rule belong to the Swiss Alpine Club, and that there was in consequence a feeling in Switzerland that we took advantage of the mountain huts without playing our part in their upkeep by joining that club which builds most of them. Bruce set to work in 1909 to rectify this state of affairs, and amid great difficulties he got together a strong body of British climbers who were already members of the Swiss Alpine Club, and formed what is now known as the Association of British Members of the S.A.C., an association which is now one of the largest British climbing clubs. In order to show the estimation in which our countrymen hold Switzerland, he put his remarkable energy into the work of collecting funds to build and present to the Swiss Alpine Club a completely equipped mountain hut as a permanent token of this esteem. This hut, which cost over £800, was built near Saas Fee, and was opened in 1912. Nothing in the way of an international gesture could have been so well timed, and from that moment the hitherto merely satisfactory relations between climbers in the two countries became definitely cordial.

In international gatherings in the Alps since that time Bruce's name has always been received with enthusiasm, and he was particularly well known in Geneva. His personal popularity with the Swiss and his friendships with them were most useful during the late War, when it became necessary to put the British point of view in Switzerland. Bruce, without being in any way a great mountaineer, had done a great deal of climbing and the mountains were a passion with him, so that he came to regard anything which made for close relations between this country and Switzerland as the chief thing in his life, and the association which he founded kept his interest to the end. Only six weeks ago he was present at its annual dinner, probably his last public appearance.

### World Rover Moot.

Next Summer there will be a *World Rover Moot* at Kandersteg, anent which I find the *Bulletin & Scots Pictorial* writing as follows:

The youth of Scotland's Scout movement are on tiptoe with eagerness already for the first great *World Rover Moot* in Switzerland next July-August.

About 200 Rovers scattered throughout the country have made application to attend. Edinburgh heads the list with 74, Glasgow, is next with 42. The others are—Ayrshire, 15; Stirlingshire, 12; Perthshire, 11; Angus, 10; Kinross, Dumfries, Morayshire, Wigtownshire, 5 each; Galashiels, 4; Fauldhouse, 3; Strathaven, 2; Selkirk, 1; and Dunoon, 1.

"The request for applications was more or less a 'feeler' to see how the lads would respond to this great opportunity, and our expectations have been fully realised," Captain E. McIntyre, Scottish Headquarters' secretary of the Boy Scouts' Association, told "The Bulletin."

"The enthusiasm shown at the Auchen-gillan Moot a few months ago is evidently being maintained in Scotland.

"This is the first *World Rover Moot*. The venue is Kandersteg, Switzerland, and the dates are from July 30 to August 7, inclusive. The Rovers will come from everywhere. I have just heard of one in America who hopes to be there. It will be one of the best things we have ever done for our own fellows. They will get a grasp of the other fellows' points of view that will be a good influence on the peace of the world."

I heartily welcome these meetings, where boys of different countries get to know each other, to appreciate each other and above all to learn that they are all boys. These meetings, be they Boy

Scouts, Rovers, Wandervoegel, or any other crowd, are bound to prepare the young minds for a healthy international outlook later on, and once we get away from our parochial politics and patriotism there will be much less danger of international armed conflicts. After all, wars are generally due to the overheating of the various nations' tempers, the overheating being fanned lustily by the interested big business men who later on subscribe handsomely to war or victory bonds bearing 5% interest, and get a knighthood for their patriotism while they let their sons, etc., pay with their life-blood for their fathers' follies and sins. I find it a very effective retort when I hear anyone "talk war" and I simply mention to him, quite casually, that I trust that in that case his own boy will be among the first to be killed. Try this next time you hear anyone talk war!

Thinking of boys and their youthful enthusiasm, that enthusiasm we older ones try so hard to preserve, I came across the following notes re stamp-collecting in the *Bromley Mercury*, 24th December.

#### Pro Juventute.

The recent issue of the 1930 Christmas Swiss stamps brings the total number of "pro juventute" designs up to 50. Only as recently as 1913 was this benevolent scheme started by way of premium over face value, by Switzerland, in aid of her children's welfare and kindred works.

The first stamp of the series professed to depict Helvetia and the Matterhorn. The picture gave a profile bust of Helvetia with the majestic Matterhorn squeezed up into distant insignificance suggesting the criticism that henceforth it might as well be dubbed the Dolt Matterhorn. But with succeeding issues the result has been beyond cavil. The designers have given us a series of beautiful and typical Swiss scenes, Arms of Cantons, etc., magnificently produced and in proper heraldic colours.

The new issue of this Christmas is a worthy complement to the predecessors, and, as each succeeding set of "pro juventute" enhances its older brothers, those who specialise in these stamps have an increasing field of interest and advancing value.

By the way, still thinking about war and its dire consequences, I read an article by Tom Clarke in the *News Chronicle* of 31st December, 1930, from which I take the following passage, which may give some of you an argument against those people who never learn anything and forget all:

#### Ten Years—and what then?

"Equal partnership." It was with this phrase in my ears that I ventured further to Geneva, where, if the vision is to become a reality, it will be fashioned out.

There is a tendency in some newspaper quarters in this country to think of the League as the refuge of highbrow dreamers, or what they call in Lancashire "soft Sammies" and "old mugwumps." I am glad to have had the chance, by actual contact, to learn how gross these libels are.

I am not myself attracted to the superior highbrow and his unrealities, but I did not meet him at Geneva.

I met lots of youngish men with very human tastes and weaknesses akin to those of most of us, who talked no blither, who worked hard and played hard (I think I could have organised a topping Rugger XV. out of those I met), and who did not cajole one for any advertisement of their work, because they know it is quietly and slowly succeeding without it.

"You may find the world's busybodies at Geneva," said a cynic in Fleet Street. I found instead Busy Brains.

It is exhilarating to meet a real internationalist, to talk as I did with Frenchmen and Germans, Finns and Americans, English and Czecho-Slovaks, and to realise they are trying to strip themselves completely of any suggestion of nationality, to discuss world problems without any regard for the country that mothered them, but only for the world as one big family. Of course they often fail. One of the dangers of Geneva is national wire-pulling; but the days are still young to expect perfection.

"Anyhow," said one of these young internationalists, "the point is that we have here the machinery to delay war. It can be put into operation at once. It has been done. We have certainly stopped two wars in the past ten years, and that is sufficient justification for our existence."

Who will be so bold as to say "No" to that?

To get back to these folk of the younger generations, who are at the same time the inspiration and the menace to Geneva. England rather more international than before; Germany restlessly national; France worried, not so sure of things, peace-wishing but afraid; America aloof but watchful; the smaller nations happy and aggressively optimistic in their new-found freedom. (As Dr. Benes said to me—"No—no more war.")

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What is Geneva doing about it all?

I cannot do better than to tell you what Mons. A. Thomas said to me. "M. Thomas was in the war the Lloyd George of France, the organiser of victory. He is now head of the International Labour Office at Geneva."

"There are ten years left, monsieur," he said in effect, "in which to get into the heads, not only of this generation, but the next, the futility of war. The next generation will know nothing of the war. We have to secure in them the Mind for Peace. Ten years, monsieur, ten years . . . Shall we do it?"

Then, after a game of Bridge last night and just as our guests were preparing to leave, I switched on the wireless and was fascinated by the relay from the Savoy Hotel, where Johann Strauss conducted the orchestra and made them play Strauss Valses as they should be played and as we used to hear them, twenty years and more ago. What rhythm, what music, what melodies! Anyhow, we valedged round the room, carpet or no carpet, and for a short, all too short moment, I fancied myself back in the old days, in the days of the old Valses! Thank you, Johann Strauss!

Some of our older Readers will no doubt remember the articles we printed, years ago, about the

### Spahlinger Treatment.

At the beginning of the new year when we are hoping for things to happen, the following article from the *Manchester Guardian*, 10th December, will not be amiss:

A committee of people interested in Mr. Henry Spahlinger's work in the immunisation of cattle against tuberculosis has to-day issued a report on recent experiments which have been carried out in Norfolk during the past year. The Aga Khan is the chairman of this committee, which includes Lord Crewe, Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Dr. Drummond Shields (Under Secretary for the Colonies), Major General Sir Frederick Maurice, Sir Thomas Watts, and other well-known people.

Addressing a gathering of journalists at the Ritz Hotel to-day, the Aga Khan stated that the English tests of the Spahlinger vaccine had proved its efficacy beyond doubt.

"This vaccine," said the Aga Khan, "is a perfectly safe and, in all circumstances, innocuous vaccine, for it is produced from dead germs. It solves the problem of ensuring that the milk and meat supply of the world can now be made free from tuberculosis. Between 40,000 and 50,000 people die of tuberculosis every year in this country, and it is well established that a potent source of infection is tuberculous milk."

A number of calves vaccinated with this vaccine under practical farming conditions are to-day alive, well, and normal, although five months ago they were inoculated with massive doses of hyper-virulent living bovine tubercle bacilli. Unvaccinated calves of the same age and weight which were given the same doses of virus in the same way, died in a month riddled with the disease, as the post mortem examinations showed. This test confirms similar results achieved in five experiments made since 1925 in Geneva. They, too, were conducted under scientific conditions of control."

The report states that the demonstration was conducted on the farm of Captain R. G. Buxton, near Swaffham, under the control of a committee composed of Sir Frederick Maurice, Mr. Henry Overman (late chairman of the Norfolk branch of the National Farmers' Union), Mr. Alfred Lewis (chairman of the Norfolk branch of the National Farmers' Union), Sir Thomas Watts, M.D., late member of Parliament; Captain R. G. Buxton, a well-known breeder of pedigree stock; Mr. Guy G. Sooby, and Mr. B. W. Blomfield. This committee of control, under whose direct supervision the demonstration was conducted, was aided by Captain Buxton's bailiff, in whose sole custody the animals remained throughout the experiment, and also by bacteriologists, veterinary surgeons, doctors, and stock-breeders, who observed the demonstration at various stages and recorded their observations.

The report says that Mr. Spahlinger produced a vaccine that immunised cattle against tuberculosis in 1916, and describes the experiments carried out at Geneva which "resulted in 1925 in the production of two forms of simplified vaccine economical to manufacture and easy to administer, which immunised cattle against tuberculosis with complete success in 1926." Further successful experiments were made there later. The Geneva experiments were conducted under ideal laboratory conditions, and the English test was undertaken—

(1) To test the efficacy of the Spahlinger simplified bovine vaccine under conditions likely to be met with in ordinary everyday farm life.

(2) To ascertain whether the simplified vaccine used successfully in the 1927 experiment in Geneva was still effective, or whether

its potency had been reduced by the lapse of time.

(3) To establish the effective range of dosage for British as compared with Swiss cattle.

In order to accomplish these objects, no precautions were taken to provide that all the calves used should be free from tuberculosis. Most of them were bought in the open market from unknown dams, and were vaccinated immediately after a 20-mile lorry drive on a bitterly cold winter day. These calves suffered from scouring and ringworm, infectious diseases, which some of the other calves caught. All the calves were housed and kept in ordinary farming conditions, and were fed on milk from cows that reacted to tuberculin. These conditions were deliberately invited in order to reproduce the unfavourable conditions all too frequently met with in practical farming. After describing the tests, the report states that the results of this first experiment proved—

1. That the Spahlinger simplified bovine vaccine immunises calves against massive injections of a virulent tubercle virus which kills unvaccinated calves in about a month.

2. That even a mere trace of the vaccine suffices to enhance in a notable degree the animals' resistance against this massive infection.

3. That the Spahlinger vaccine immunises cattle under the most unfavourable conditions to be found in ordinary practical farm life.

4. That the vaccine does not lose its potency with the lapse of time.

There is appended to this report a statement signed by Mr. Alfred Lewis, the chairman of the Norfolk Farmers' Union, and other agricultural and veterinary experts who "controlled" the experiment and who certify to a series of facts which they say prove "that the Spahlinger simplified bovine vaccine confers on calves an extremely strong resistance against tuberculosis even when the virus is administered intravenously in such massive doses as to kill unvaccinated calves in about a month."

There does not seem to exist any reasonable doubt that there is at least a very good "something" in this Spahlinger Treatment and by and by, I hope, mankind in general will benefit by it.

### Swiss Cabinetmakers.

Many of our English friends will be astonished to learn that Swiss Wood Workers do not excel in wood-sculpture only, but that some very fine furniture is being made too. *The Liverpool Echo*, 27th December, publishes the following:

Furniture-making during the last year or two has received a new impetus in Switzerland. The Swiss have always been noted for the beauty of their wood-carving, so it is not at all surprising that recent exhibitions of furniture have fired their ambition to show what they, too, could do with wood—native and imported. They are not only using their fine-grained white sycamore, their deep-toned walnut, their ash, and their elm, but they are inventing new methods of polishing these woods, and are inlaying them with decorative tropical woods. It is interesting to follow the work of a cabinet-maker in one of the Swiss towns.

After having sawn all his different kinds of wood into appropriate lengths and thicknesses, he leaves all these planks for months (and in some cases for years) in an open space out of doors, to ensure their perfect seasoning. Hot sun, bitter winds, snow and frost, take turns in destroying the sap, and then, to render it absolutely dry, the timber is carried into yards, where, properly stacked, the out-door drying process is completed.

But the Swiss cabinetmaker has also to consider the pernicious effect of central heating upon furniture, and in a country of severe winters, such heating is universal in Switzerland, at any rate in the towns and large buildings. So special arrangements have been made to guarantee wood against damage of this kind.

The wood is placed in a room in such a manner that air circulates freely between, and around, each and every plank, and powerful ventilators bring a furious current of air into play. Cold at first, this draught is gradually heated until, for some species of timber, it attains the highest possible temperature. This proceeding is duly regulated by hygrometers and thermometers.

The wood is now ready for working, and here in Switzerland, as elsewhere, a certain amount of machinery comes into play. Yet the Swiss still prefer handwork for the better-class furniture, and the minutest care is lavished on the "collage" or fixing. Everyone knows that for a glue to hold it must be applied boiling on a heated surface, and the cabinetmakers here are real masters in this art.

The shop where the men are working at "collage" is always kept at the required temperature, and close to the furniture presses are installed huge ovens heated to proper degree for the wood upon which the man is busy. The glue, constantly kept in the same way at the proper temperature, is placed on the wood

(Continued on back page.)

### TEN YEARS.

A brief summary of the more important happenings in the Swiss Colony reported in our columns during the period 1920—1930.

(Continued.)

*Issue No. 352 (June 23rd, 1928).*

Mr. Charles Studer won the Pollard's Hill Cup at Pollard's Hill Golf course.

*Issue No. 353 (June 30th, 1928).*

Fête Suisse at Caxton Hall, under the Presidency of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

*Issue No. 354 (July 7th, 1928).*

Swiss Rifle Association: Visit to Bisley Camp.

*Issue No. 358 (September 1st, 1928).*

First of August celebration at Hendon. Visit of Cons. Nat. Henri Vallotton in London.

The Kent Agricultural Show award 1st prize to Messrs. C. Duruz & Sons, of Hythe Nurseries, Hythe, Kent.

*Issue No. 360 (September 15th, 1928).*

Swiss Mercantile Society: Lecture by Mr. U. A. Casal, at Victoria Hall.

*Issue No. 363 (October 6th, 1928).*

Mr. Charles Studer wins the monthly Senior Boge Competition at Pollard's Hill Golf course.

*Issue No. 365 (October 20th, 1928).*

Death of C. A. Bieri, member of the Société de Secours Mutuals.

*Issue No. 371 (December 1st, 1928).*

City Swiss Club: Annual Banquet and Ball at Hotel Victoria. In the Chair: Mr. M. Gerig, President. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Swiss Gymnastic Society: Display at Union Helvetia Club.

*Issue No. 372 (December 8th, 1928).*

Union Helvetia: Annual Banquet and Ball at 1, Gerrard Place. In the Chair: Mr. A. Indermaur. Principal guest: Monsieur W. de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation.

Swiss Rifle Association: Annual Banquet and Ball. In the Chair: Mr. Charles Strubin. Principal guest: Monsieur Borsinger, First Secretary of Legation.

*Issue No. 373 (December 15th, 1928).*

Recital by Miss Violette Brown at Wigmore Hall.

Union Helvetia: Memorial Service at Hendon Park Cemetery.

*Issue No. 379 (February 2nd, 1929).*

Concert by Elly Ney at Wigmore Hall.

*Issue No. 381 (February 9th, 1929).*

Swiss Mercantile Society: Annual Banquet and Ball at Midland Grand Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. A. C. Stahelin. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

*Issue No. 383 (February 23rd, 1929).*

Swiss Choral Society: Annual Banquet and Ball at First Avenue Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. M. E. Bommer. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Swiss Mercantile Society: Lecture by Major Nathan. In the Chair: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

*Issue No. 384 (March 2nd, 1929).*

Death of Mr. H. Hoesli, Member of City Swiss Club and Swiss Mercantile Society.

*Issue No. 386 (March 16th, 1929).*

Death of Mr. J. Geilinger, Member of City Swiss Club, N.S.H. and Swiss Mercantile Society.

*Issue No. 387 (March 23rd, 1929).*

Unione Ticinese: Annual Banquet and Ball at Restaurant Monico. In the Chair: Mr. W. Notari. Principal guest: Monsieur Borsinger, Councillor of Legation.

*Issue No. 388 (March 30th, 1929).*

Swiss Club (Schweizerbund): Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte Street. In the Chair: Mr. Pache. Principal guest: Monsieur de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation.

*Issue No. 392 (April 27th, 1929).*

Death of Mr. G. E. Colomb, former President of Société de Secours Mutuals.

*Issue No. 394 (May 11th, 1929).*

Farewell Dinner to Monsieur F. J. Borsinger, Councillor of Legation. In the Chair: Mr. E. Werner, President of City Swiss Club.

Unione Ticinese: Social Evening at Schweizerbund. In the Chair: Mr. W. Notari.

*Issue No. 396 (May 25th, 1929).*

Swiss Sports at Herne Hill.

*Issue No. 397 (June 1st, 1929).*

Death of Mr. A. Palliser, a great friend of Switzerland.

*Issue No. 398 (June 8th, 1929).*

Death of Mr. L. M. Delaray, member of Swiss Colony Birmingham.

*Issue No. 400 (June 22nd, 1929).*

Fête Suisse at Caxton Hall.

Issue No. 401 (June 29th, 1929).

Death of Mr. Ad. Meister.

Issue No. 405 (July 27th, 1929).

Death of Mr. A. L. Dumoulin.

Issue No. 407 (August 10th, 1929).

First of August celebration at Hendon.

Issue No. 408 (August 17th, 1929).

Swiss Team wins Army Officers' Jumping competition at Dublin Horse Show.

(To be continued.)

Back numbers of the *Swiss Observer* are obtainable from this office at 4d. per copy (post free). Orders, which must be prepaid, should be addressed: "Swiss Observer," 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

**Notes and Gleanings—(Continued)**

before either the one or the other has had time to cool. The various parts thus stuck together are then assembled, and the whole placed in these enormous presses, where they are squared so perfectly that it is the rarest thing for Swiss furniture to lose a wedge or gape at a join.

After this the pieces are subjected to chemical treatment to add to their colour or decoration. Special workshops are set aside for this purpose, where the least speck of dust is hunted down, pitilessly for fear of spoiling the perfect polish of the pieces of furniture under treatment.

Up to the present the modern cabinet-maker in Switzerland has been devoting his energies to very dear and extremely fin-de-siècle sets of furniture, simple in form but elaborately ornamented as regards inlay, polish and colour. Certain signs, however, tend to prove that he is turning his attention to less expensive work; and at the recent exhibition at Basle bedroom and living-room sets of furniture suitable for folk of modest means vied in charm and utility with more pretentious furniture. Needless to say, simplicity of design is one of the marks of modern Swiss cabinetmaking.

It is surprising to see how many various bits of information about Switzerland get into the British Press, and I generally conclude therefrom that British Readers take a gratifying interest in things Swiss in general. Which is as it should be, because the two peoples have much in common.

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**

During last week in connection with the scholastic programme, the debating classes dealt with the following subjects:

"Are you in favour of Missionaries?" Miss E. Wissmann, Zurich: Proposer. Mr. P. Bertschmann, Basle: Opposer.

"Charity begins at Home." Messrs. Bertschmann, Kilcher: Proposers. Messrs. Schüpbach, Egg: Opposers.

On Friday Evening, January 2nd, 1931, Captain F. G. Messum delivered a lecture (with lantern slides) on the "Argentine Republic."

**XAVIER CASTELLI. †**

Mr. Xavier Castelli, whose sudden death at his residence in Hampstead, at the age of 68, we regret to announce, was well known to the Swiss Colony in London through his many years of association with the Swiss Bank Corporation.

Mr. Castelli began his banking career with the Crédit Lyonnais in London and subsequently joined the staff of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris. It was in the service of this latter institution that he went to India, where some years afterwards he was appointed Manager of the Calcutta branch. On his return to England he became Manager of the Eastern and Foreign branches of this Bank at the London Office. During the next stage of his career he acted as secretary to Sir Ernest Cassel, from whose service he was called in 1905 to the position of Manager of the London Office of the Swiss Bank, where he worked under the leadership of Mr. Leon Rueff.

It was from this time onwards that Mr. Castelli's association with Switzerland and Swiss people, both at home and in England, commenced to grow. The outbreak of war in 1914 naturally placed the Swiss Bank in an outstanding, and not always enviable position among London financial institutions and it was due in no small measure to Mr. Castelli's tact, enthusiasm and courage that the Bank became accepted from the start as a centre of "neutrality" in the City.

The position of General Manager, to which he was appointed in 1916, carried with it many extra responsibilities in this connection and involved much travel between Switzerland and London at a time when such journeys were not the simple affair to which the traveller of 1931 is accustomed. The writer remembers Mr. Castelli's passport, stamped and counter-stamped by hundreds of authorities, as a striking testimony to the travels he accomplished during those years.

In 1923 he was elected to a seat on the Board and consequently to the position of Managing

Director in London, and when, in 1926, he retired from the London Management, he retained this directorship and continued in active association with Switzerland through his attendance of Board Meetings. His directorship of the Clayton Aniline Co. Ltd., in Manchester, also represented a close tie with Switzerland, as this concern is the English subsidiary of the great Society for Chemical Industry in Basle.

Before his retirement Mr. Castelli had moved from his London home to Westgate for reasons of health but during the last year he returned to London and settled in Hampstead. His sudden death came as a great shock to his City friends, many of whom had met him quite recently and were unaware that he was in any way an ailing man. He leaves a widow, three sons—he lost two sons in the War—and a daughter. The sincere sympathy of the Swiss Colony in London is extended to his family.

**ARMAND PAUL ROSSELET-DROUX. †**

Notre ami n'est plus; cet homme au caractère droit empreint d'une extrême franchise, aux abords parfois frondeurs mais où la bonté et la bonhomie finissaient toujours par percer, vient d'être enlevé subitement dans la fleur de l'âge à l'affection des siens et de notre colonie.

Pour nous tous, la mort d'Armand Rosselet est une grande perte, et les nombreux amis qui ont assisté dimanche passé au service funèbre à l'Église suisse, ont entendu retracer en termes poignants ce qu'avaient été sa vie et ses aspirations.

Bourgeois des Bayards, né à St. Imier en 1893, il y suivit les écoles et compléta son apprentissage à la "Nationale," puis rechercha l'aventure et plein de ressort, il courut le monde et fit plusieurs voyages au long cours dont il se plaisait à raconter les pérégrinations à l'aide de savoureuses expressions, mais dues n'est qu'en 1914, grâce à certaines conditions dues n'est qu'en 1914, qu'il se fixa à Londres afin d'y faire carrière.

Chargé de l'exécution de divers travaux par la maison d'horlogerie Moïse Dreyfuss, il s'y attacha définitivement en 1916, et fit preuve à maintes reprises d'une grande capacité de travail, ses chefs, savaient apprécier son jugement sur de parfait comptable.

Dans la suite, Armand Rosselet ne tarda pas à s'intéresser aux affaires de la colonie; ses goûts le conduisirent tout d'abord en 1916 à la "Swiss Mercantile Society," dont il fut chef de cours, vérificateur des comptes, et finalement, élu membre honoraire en 1930 afin de marquer la reconnaissance et l'estime qu'il inspirait.

Durant quelques années, il assista régulièrement au Fonds de Secours, aux séances hebdomadaires dites du lundi, et là encore, ses services furent mis à contribution lors des révisions annuelles.

C'est à la "Société de Secours Mutuals" qu'il se manifesta peut-être le plus activement, il y entra en 1919, fit partie de son comité dès 1922, et en 1929 voulant témoigner l'affection qu'il lui avait, accepta le poste de trésorier qu'il remplit avec son dévouement coutumier; terminons en disant de lui, qu'il avait à cœur de mener à bien toute mission dont il s'était chargé, à témoin aussi le grand zèle dont il fit preuve chaque année lors de l'organisation de la Fête suisse.

Il s'en va dans ce coin de France, où repose déjà depuis plus de trois ans sa chère fillette dont il avait tant pleuré la mort, c'était son désir souvent exprimé et auquel il est fait droit hélas! bien prématurément.

Qu'il nous soit permis ici, de renouveler à sa famille l'expression de la sympathie la plus profonde de notre colonie, un vide vient de s'y creuser, un caractère marquant a disparu!

CeC.

An inquest on the late Mr. A. P. Rosselet-Droux was held by the Battersea Coroner on Tuesday, 6th inst. A verdict of death from accidental causes was recorded and the Coroner expressed his sympathy with the relatives.

**La Maison Moïse Dreyfuss a le regret de faire part à ses amis et connaissances de la perte qu'elle vient d'éprouver en la personne de Monsieur**

**Armand Rosselet-Droux,  
leur fidèle collaborateur pendant 15 ans.**

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Dimanche 11. Janvier 11 h.—M. M. Pradervand.

6.30 h.—M. M. Pradervand.

7.30 h.—Réunion de prière.

**BAPTEME.**

Paul Georges Rodolphe Ryf, né le 1 Août 1930, fils de Rodolphe et d'Ethel Louise née Spalding—de Rümisberg (Berne)—le 4.1.31.

**SERVICE FUNEBRE.**

Un service en mémoire d'Armand Paul Rosselet-Droux des Bayards (Neuchâtel) né le 23. octobre 1889, décédé dans sa 41 me année le 31. décembre 1930 a été célébré à l'Eglise suisse le 4. janvier 1931.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798).—Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30—12 h.

**SCHWEIZERKIRCHE**

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 11 Januar 1931.

11 Uhr vorm: Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen u. Religionsunterricht sind an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde, C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4, erbeten. Telephon: Chiswick 4156.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

Wednesday, January 14th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS

MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at

"Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, January 17th.—CITY SWISS CLUB:

First Cinderella at the May Fair Hotel,

Berkeley Square, W.1.

Wednesday, January 21st, at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVETIQUE: Monthly Meeting

of the London Group, followed by a short

address by Dr. Walter E. R. Mons on "The

Psychology of Cancer in the Light of the latest

Research," at the "Swiss House," 34/35,

Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, January 30th at 8 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL

SOCIETY: Social Evening and Tombola at the

Union Helvetic Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, February 4th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ

DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting, at

74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, February 7th, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.—

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball, at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Wednesday, February 25th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS

MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meet-

ing at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square,

W.1.

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