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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS



FEDERAL.

SWISS ARMY MAKES INSTRUCTION FILMS.

For some time the Swiss Army Authorities have been studying the possibility of employing the film for the instruction of its soldiers.

A film, specially produced, was recently shown before the Society of Army Officers at Berne. It presented the principal technical elements of army defence, and had been produced under the direction of an infantry officer instructor. The company manoeuvred in the region of Zweisimmen and Saanenmoser.

The final verdict of the Army representatives is that the film, produced with care and precision, will be an invaluable aid in army training.

Two categories of films are suggested—the technical film and the tactical film, and the authorities have decided to form a special section which will be responsible for the provision to each group of projecting apparatus and suitable films.

SWISS BANK RATE LOWERED.

The Swiss National Bank has reduced the official discount rate by one half per cent. to 2 per cent., and the rate for advances on security by one half per cent. to 3 per cent.

SWISS DIESEL ENGINE.

It is officially reported that in pursuance of their policy of adapting their Scotswood works to new industries, Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co. have entered into an agreement with the Saurer Company, of Switzerland, to manufacture here diesel engined motor lorries. For this purpose a new company has been registered under the title of the Armstrong Saurer Company.

FASCIST "CENSUS" IN SWITZERLAND.

The *Squilla Italica* ("Italian Bell"), the organ of the Italian fascists in Switzerland, is reported to have addressed a circular to Swiss local authorities asking for lists of Italians living in their locality, adding that some municipalities have already supplied these lists, and that they are only required in order to send copies of the journal to Italians throughout Switzerland.

The newspapers suggest that this is only a ruse by which the Italian legation at Berne is endeavouring to obtain a full list of Italians in Switzerland, and it is recalled that a Government circular was sent out to police departments in 1920 saying that such requests should not be complied with, but that inquirers should be referred to the Federal Department of Justice and Police.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

For the year ending 1930, the directors of the Crédit Suisse propose to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. on the share capital of 150,000,000 francs. The net profit is returned as 16,419,924 francs (1929—18,589,391 francs). The Handwerkerbank Basle earned net profit of 1,190,000 francs for 1930, a slight increase over 1929. The dividend is repeated at 8 per cent. The net profit of the St. Gallische Creditanstalt declined from 1,021,000 francs in 1929 to 969,000 francs in 1930. The dividend has been reduced from 10 per cent. to 8 per cent.

A DIPLOMAT'S JUBILEE.

Monsieur Frédéric W. Barbey, Swiss Minister in Brussels, celebrated last Saturday his 10th anniversary as diplomatic representative of the Swiss Confederation to the Belgian Court. On this occasion the Swiss Colony of Brussels, in conjunction with the various Swiss Societies in Belgium, offered a banquet to Monsieur Barbey.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

The latest figures to hand show that there are at present 23,045 persons unemployed.

LOCAL. ZURICH.

The Italian Consul-General in Zurich, Signor Bianchi, was on Tuesday seriously wounded by an Italian, who fired three revolver shots at him in his office at the Consulate.

The assailant—a young soldier named Bassi—

had presented himself already twice at the Consulate asking for assistance during his period of military service, which had been refused. To-day Bassi called at the Consulate and insisted on seeing the Consul-General himself, who received him and explained that the Italian authorities did not see their way to grant his request.

Thereupon the young man fired, hitting Signor Bianchi in the hand, the left lung, and the lower abdomen. He then ran out into the street, where he was speedily arrested by the police with the assistance of some passers-by. The attack had no political motive. Signor Bianchi is lying in a serious condition.

D.T.

The Canton of Zurich proposes to issue a new Four per Cent. Loan of Frs. 25,000,000 to provide funds for the conversion or redemption of various loans which will be maturing shortly. These are the three 1916 issues totalling Frs. 18,000,000 and the 1917 loan of Frs. 8,000,000, while Frs. 1,000,000 will be available out of current funds.

The new loan will be issued at 99 per cent., plus Federal stamp tax of 60 centimes per cent. It will be redeemable on 31st March, 1946, or after 1943 at the option of the Cantonal authorities.

F.T.

BERNE.

A memorable gathering took place in Berne last week. Through the initiative of the Society of Army officers, an invitation was sent out to the veterans of Berne's regiments, who took part in the occupation of the frontier during the Franco-Prussian war in 1870-71. Well over three hundred persons answered this invitation. M. Joss, a member of the State Council, was in the chair, and amongst the visitors were the colonels Wildbolz, Guisan, Schaubli, Roost, Bridel, Schmid, Hartmann and Buhmann. During the dinner, the 99 years old veteran Schmid was presented with a bunch of flowers. One of the participants was the trumpeter Gasser, who accompanied the officers with a flag of truce to ask for the surrender of the Bourbaki army before crossing the frontier. Many patriotic speeches were delivered, and a message was sent to the widow of General Herzog, who lives at St. Gall.

B.

The Bernese Government has issued a proclamation to the population acquainting them with the fact that 100 years ago the introduction of the new constitution (Staatsverfassung) took place. In order to celebrate this important event, the Grand Council and the cantonal authorities will meet in solemn conclave at the Town Hall in Berne. All the schools will be closed that day.

N.Z.

M. M. Flückiger (liberal) has been elected President of the Municipal Council, as first Vice-President M. Berger-Stalder (Bürgerpartei) and as second Vice-President M. Fritz Marbach (socialist) have been elected.

B.

GLARUS.

Bartholomä Tschudi-Streiff, the last "Ratsherr," has died at Glarus at the age of 86. St.T.

A meeting of the population of Linthal, which was evacuated some few weeks ago owing to the danger of an alandslide at the Kilchenstock, took place. Professor Heim from Zurich acquainted the meeting with the position, saying that, owing to the cold weather, no further movements have occurred, but that the danger was by no means obliterated. M. Hauser, Landamann, assured the population of the support of the whole canton. A collection in aid of the sorely tried inhabitants, which was started some time ago, has yielded so far 33,000 francs, but as the distress is great and help urgently wanted, a committee has been appointed in order to make a wider appeal. J.S.P.

BASLE.

The death is reported at a nursing home in Basle of Colonel H. Keller, formerly commander of the St. Gotthard fortress.

N.Z.

(Continued on page 2245.)

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

for the

LAST DINNER AND DANCE

of the Season at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

A Campaign in the Alps in 1799—continued.

So matters stood at the end of the second day of operations, the 15th of August, with the Austrians cleared completely out of the Reuss valley below the Devil's bridge. For the description of what happened on the following day, it is necessary to go back and to consider the events which took place in the Rhone valley during the previous days.

The assistance which Turreau's Division was directed to give to Lecourbe consisted in an attack on the Austrians under Strauch in the upper Rhone valley (the Goms) from Brig. The Antrona and Monte Moro passes had been occupied by the French on the 12th of August to prevent the possibility of the French flank being turned from that direction. On the 13th of August a column consisting of the 1st and 2nd/89th and the 3rd/110th attacked the Warasdin Battalion which was stationed at Rosswald and formed the liaison between Strauch's Brigade in the Goms and Rohan's on the Simplon pass. The Austrians retreated, pursued by the French, and a certain interest is attached to the location of the place which the French reached. It is known that the Warasdin Battalion retired on the Binnenthal where its support (a battalion of regiment Wallis) was posted, and the French are stated by Stutterheim (quoted by Günther) to have taken up a position on the "Safnitzer Alps." The Archduke Charles gives "Safnitscheralp (Safnismatt)" as their position, and Hennquin states that it was on "the heights of the Safnischalp." The interest arises from the fact that there is a valley, the Safnischalp, which runs parallel with the Rhone, from the Binnenthal to the pass of the Safnischjoch (8,467 feet) close behind Rosswald. Safnischmatten is in this valley close to the Binnenthal. The only other way by which the French could have reached this place is by going up the Rhone valley and then up the Binnenthal, but this would have necessitated their passing positions which were still held by the Austrians at this time. It seems, therefore, impossible to avoid the conclusion that these operations took place over the Safnischjoch, resulting in complete severance of the communications between Strauch and Rohan.

At all events, in the evening of the same day (13th of August) the French column fell back on Rosswald. On the following day, Turreau again attacked Strauch. One column under Jardon attacked on the (northern) bank of the Rhone and drove the Siegenfeld battalion back from Ried to the Teischberg, where its support (Battalion Carneville) held up the French advance. The French column on the left bank pushed up as far as Bister.

Seeing that his left flank was seriously compromised, Strauch ordered four companies of the Wallis Battalion which was posted at Münster to march down the Rhone and assist in stemming the tide of Turreau's advance, and to retake the lost positions. This they partially succeeded in accomplishing. But in so doing, Strauch fell completely into the subtle trap which the French had laid for him, for Strauch now had only two companies left in reserve with which to support his two battalions on the Grimsel pass, and it was precisely at this moment that Gudin's Column attacked the Grimsel pass and took it.

On the 13th of August Gudin had concentrated his Column at Guttanen, at the entrance to the Haslital, and he did not relish the task which was appointed for him on the morrow. Patrols which had reconnoitred the Grimsel pass had found it to be strongly held. One Austrian battalion defended the rock called the Nollen at the foot of which the old Hospice stood, while another battalion held the summit of the pass itself (7,135 feet). It appears that while the French officers were in the inn at Guttanen which was kept by a certain Fahner, they overheard him boast that he knew of a way by which the French could get at the Austrians from behind. Gudin jumped at the chance, and by persuasion and coercion determined Fahner to lead a detachment by the way of which he had spoken.

Accordingly, a column of four companies of the 2nd/25th light demi-brigade started off in the middle of the night, and, early on the morning of the 14th of August, Fahner led it across the Bögel-

Home News—(Continued)
SOLOTHURN.

The shoe manufacturing firm of Hug & Co. in Herzogenbuchsee intends to move their works into the canton of Solothurn owing to the excessive taxation by the Bernese income tax authorities.

FRIBOURG.

M. G. de Reynold, Professor of History at the University of Berne, has been appointed to the same position at the University of Fribourg.

GENEVA.

The judicial authorities have opened an inquiry at Confignon, in consequence of repeated complaints received from various parents, that their children have suffered excessive punishment from one of the teachers. It is alleged that on different occasions pupils of this school have been thrown into a fountain in the playground, and that they have been pricked with needles. A medical examination has proved that one boy was covered by numerous pin pricks.

J.G.

Doctor M. Bourcart, the well-known gynaecologist, has died at Geneva at the age of 67.

Mlle. Fanny Guillermet, a noted writer and widely read in the French part of Switzerland, has succumbed to an attack of influenza.

T.G.

NEUCHATEL.

M. A. Clottu, member of the Conseil d'Etat, has tendered his resignation as President of the cantonal Liberal Association for reasons of health. M. Clottu occupied this responsible position for over 13 years.

THURGAU.

The Unemployment figures at the end of last December are as follows: Totally unemployed: \$85, partially unemployed: 3000 persons N.Z.Z.

VALAIS.

One girl was killed and two severely injured when a landslide took place between Bitsch and Morel.

N.Z.

VAUD.

M. A. Monnier, a former President of the Federal Tribunal, has died at Lausanne at the age of 84.

Mr. Alfred Galland, British Consul at Lausanne, celebrated last week his seventieth birthday and his forty-fourth year as Consul.

T.G.

whilst Marshall, an inhabitant of Geneva, was found dead.

N.Z.

ST. MORITZ.

Four members of a ski-ing excursion on the Piz Nair have been overtaken by an avalanche. Three persons were rescued by another party.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

A. Witschard, "Colours and Styles." V. Steger (Miss), "Alice in Wonderland." E. Hug, "Bee Culture." O. Benz, "English People." H. Kubly, "Equal Work, equal Pay." H. Roth, "Cheese." A. Moeri, "Anzio." G. Pfeiffer (Miss), "English Operettas and the Geisha." W. Tanner, "An Accident on the Mountains."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in favour of a Channel Tunnel?" Proposer: P. Bertschmann. Opposer: E. Hug.

On Friday evening last, January 23rd, the students had a very enjoyable and instructive lecture from Mr. W. H. Jackson on "The Romance of the London Docks." Mrs. Paull who introduced the lecturer, told the audience that Mr. Jackson was in business with a firm of ship-repairers who had docks right along the River Thames and thus the lecturer had very intimate and special knowledge of his subject. Mr. Jackson gave a short historical survey of the growth of London as a port, tracing its rise in pre-Roman days, to its position at the present day, and showing its growth from a very small centre of trade, to its position as the premier port of the world. We realised from the many lantern slides Mr. Jackson showed, what a tremendous concern the Port of London is, how many ships come in, are fitted up, and repaired, and what tremendous stocks of almost every commodity they bring to London for world-wide distribution.

The lecturer was loudly cheered, and the vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Paull, heartily seconded by Mr. Kubly, one of the students present.

Afterwards the students listened to a very enjoyable concert, at which Mrs. Paull and her visitor, Mrs. Avger, sang solos and duets, while students, including Mr. Seiler and Mr. Rosenthaler, also added to the enjoyment by recitals and violin solos.

On Saturday morning about 100 students went with Mrs. Paull to visit the Tower of London. The weather was beautiful and all parts of this historic building were visited and described in full, if somewhat rapid English, by one of the "Beefeaters."

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

In the *Swiss Observer* of the 17th January the Society made an announcement of a Concert to be given at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, on Thursday the 19th of February, and made an earnest appeal for support.

We feel sure that readers will be interested to know that the arrangements for the Concert are rapidly approaching completion. The Orchestra is endeavouring to live up to the high standard set at the last Concert and has accordingly secured the services of two well-known Concert artists of outstanding merit in Miss Olivia Hilder, soprano, and Mr. George Owen, tenor.

Tickets and programmes will be available in the course of the next few days, and the members of the Orchestra wish again to express their desire that readers of the *Swiss Observer* will give their support in connection with this ambitious venture.

Once more—the date—February 19th, the place—Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., W.6. To the Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

Dear Sir.—After reading H. Sch's letter, one is bound to confess there is some truth in what he contends. On the other hand, he seems to swing to the opposite extreme to that of the City Swiss Club. One apparently indulges in extravagant social functions, whilst the other would almost abandon them.

The pride of the Swiss people lies in their democratic spirit, yet the City Swiss Club must adopt the rendezvous of princes, dukes and milionaires, instead of a more democratic resort.

Knowing that business is bad, one would have thought that members of the City Swiss Club, realising this, would have held their functions at a less expensive but no less satisfactory meeting place. Also they might have thought of their numerous compatriots engaged in the restaurant trade, and reasoned that business must be bad for them too. By holding their social functions at a house belonging to one of their own nation, they would be helping to brighten up things for some Swiss.

To argue that because business is bad, people should not spend money on banquets and dances, shows little consideration for those in the catering and restaurant lines which depend largely on these functions for their trade. The reduction of these banquets would mean less business and, instead of helping to improve economic conditions, it would tend to make them worse.

Again these affairs give an opportunity for meeting on a basis other than that of business. Also, they are very often the means of raising funds for the benefit of the needy.

To me it appears that the solution lies in a compromise: a compromise between the ideas of the City Swiss Club and those of your correspondent.

Yours,

G. A. NOTARI.

P.S.—Since "ek" is "always willing to help and give advice on any subject," ranging from domestic science to beauty culture, may I suggest he offers his solution!

G.A.N.

UP-TO-DATE EPISTLES.

We are indebted to a subscriber for the following amusing examples of present-day correspondence:—

Dear Sir,

For the following reason I regret I cannot send you a cheque.

I have been held up, held down, sand-bagged, walked upon, sat upon, flattened out and squeezed by the Income Tax, the Super Tax, the tobacco tax, the beer tax, the spirits tax, the motor tax, and by every society, organization and club that the inventive mind of man can think of to extract what I may or may not have in my possession for the Red Cross, the Black Cross, the Iron Cross, the Double Cross and every Hospital in town and country.

The Government has governed my business till I do not know who owns it. I am inspected, suspected, examined and re-examined, required and commanded, so that I do not know who I am, where I am or why the Hell I am here at all.

All I know is that I am supposed to be an inexhaustible supply of money for every need, desire or hope of the human race, and because I will not go out and beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed, discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked at, lied to, lied about, held up, rung up, robbed and damn near ruined.

The only reason I cling to life is to see what the Hell is going to happen next.

D. AMBROKE.

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. 409 (August 24th, 1929).

Four hundred Swiss Boy Scouts arrive in England for the World Jamboree at Arrowe Park.

Issue No. 410 (August 31st, 1929).

Death of Mr. Adolphe Hoegger.

Issue No. 418 (October 26th, 1929).

Swiss Mercantile Society: Introduction of Mr. Levy, the new Head Master of the S.M.S. School.

Helvetica Lodge: Ladies' Festival at the Café Royal. In the Chair: Mr. R. Marchand.

Issue No. 420 (November 9th, 1929).

Death of Mr. John George Sigg.

Issue No. 421 (November 16th, 1929).

Swiss Choral Society: Annual Banquet and Ball at First Avenue Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. E. Bommer. Principal guest: Monsieur de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation.

Recital by Mme. Sophie Wyss at the Grottrian Hall.

Issue No. 422 (November 23rd, 1929).

Union Helvetia: Annual Banquet and Ball at 1, Gerrard Place, W. In the Chair: Mr. A. Indermaur. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 423 (November 30th, 1929).

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

Issue No. 425 (December 14th, 1929).

Swiss Rifle Association: Annual Banquet at 1, Gerrard Place, W. In the Chair: Mr. Alfred Schmid. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 426 (December 21st, 1929).

L'Escalade: Dinner at Pagan's Restaurant. In the Chair: Mr. de Cintra.

Issue No. 427 (December 28th, 1929).

Swiss Mercantile Society: Students' Xmas Dinner at the First Avenue Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. M. Paschoud, President of Swiss Mercantile Society.

Issue No. 428 (January 4th, 1930).

Foyer Suisse: Reunion of the old people of the Colony at Upper Bedford Street. In the Chair: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 430 (January 8th, 1930).

Fire at L'Eglise Suisse.

Death of Mr. O. J. Walser.

Issue No. 431 (January 25th, 1930).

Death of Mr. Peter Stoeri, well-known member of the Swiss Colony.

Issue No. 433 (February 8th, 1930).

Swiss Mercantile Society: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. M. Paschoud. Principal guests: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister, Monsieur de Sonnenberg, Councillor of Legation, Monsieur de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation, Monsieur Clement Rezzonico, Head of the Commercial Division, and Monsieur P. Hilfiker, Chancellor of Legation.

Issue No. 435 (February 22nd, 1930).

City Swiss Club: Dinner in honour of Monsieur G. Motta, Federal Councillor, at the May Fair Hotel. In the Chair: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Swiss Mercantile Society: Visit of Federal Councillor G. Motta to the Swiss Mercantile School.

Issue No. 436 (March 1st, 1930).

Death of M. François Henri Besson of the Swiss Bank Corporation.

Issue No. 438 (March 15th, 1930).

Mr. Charles Studer wins 2nd prize in the "Mincing Lane Commercial Sale Rooms Billiard Championship."

Liverpool Swiss Club: Annual Dinner at the Bear's Paw. Principal guests: Dr. Scheidler, Swiss Consul at Manchester, and Mr. Montag, Swiss Consul at Liverpool.

Issue No. 439 (March 22nd, 1930).

Unione Ticinese: Annual Banquet and Ball at Restaurant Monaco. In the Chair: Mr. W. Notari. Principal guest: Monsieur Clement Rezzonico, Secretary of Legation.

Union Helvetia, Glasgow: "Surchrut Abig." Principal guest: Monsieur Max Graf, Swiss Consul at Glasgow.

(To be continued.)

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