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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

SWISS TIBETAN EXPEDITION.

News has reached Switzerland that the Swiss expedition to Tibet arrived towards the end of November at Tatsienlu, in Szechwan, on their way back to Europe. The leader of the expedition is Professor Arnold Heim, son of the well-known geologist, and his assistant is M. Imhoff, a Zurich engineer.

From mid-July until the end of November the party surveyed the mountain region of Eastern Tibet. Atmospheric conditions were unfavourable, and the Swiss scientists had to camp for several weeks at a height of 9,000ft. to 15,000ft., either under their tents, in damp caves, or under the shelter of fallen boulders. They were unable to climb high peaks, but made a rough topographical and geological map of a wide area of little-known land.

The expedition surveyed the environs of the Minya Gugkar, the highest summit of the region, which, according to measurements made by M. Imhoff, is nearly 7,500 metres, or 24,600 ft., high. Professor Arnold Heim says that the mountain resembles something like three Matterhorns in a line, and is surrounded by a sea of huge glaciers. Many geological samples were collected, and valuable observations made on the glaciations.

NEW MINISTER AT BERNE.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Howard William Kennard, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Berne. Sir Howard fills the vacancy at Berne created by the departure of Sir Claud Frederick William Russell to Portugal as British Ambassador. Sir Howard, who was born at Brighton, is fifty-three years of age, and he has been in the Diplomatic Service for over thirty years, his first appointment being at Rome. He has also served at Teheran, Washington, Havana and Tangier, and is a distinguished Persian and Arabic scholar.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

A. G. LEU & Co.

The Zurich bank A. G. Leu & Co. is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its existence, and the 25th anniversary of its existence as a commercial bank. Its net profits for 1930 amounted to 5,100,000f., against 5,170,000f. for 1929. The balance sheet total increased from 378,430,000f. in 1929 to 416,140,000f. in 1930.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMpte DE GENÈVE.

The net profits of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Genève declined from 4,670,000f. in 1929 to 4,130,000f. in 1930. Its dividend has been reduced from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent.

SCHWEIZERISCHE VOLKSBANK.

The net profits of the Schweizerische Volksbank amounted to 10,635,000f. for 1930, against 12,008,000f. for 1929. The dividend is 5 per cent. against 6.19 per cent. in 1929.

SWITZERLAND'S GIANT LOCOMOTIVES.

New electric locomotives which Switzerland is building for the Federal Railways will be the most powerful in the world. They will have a length of 34 metres and weigh 245 tons each, with a capacity of 7,000 h.p. They will be able to draw express trains of 600 tons and goods trains of 750 tons at the rate of about 40 miles an hour up the steepest inclines of the international Gotthard line. At present Switzerland has 300 electric locomotives for express trains and 200 other locomotives and electric tractors on her railways. About 85 per cent. of the total railway traffic in the country is now propelled by electricity.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The Federal Council has confirmed the appointments for a further term of office of Mr. Alfred Sarasin, and State Councillor Messmer, as President and Vice-President of the Bank Council of the National Bank.

N.Z.

SCHWYZ

For having drunk by mistake a glass of spirit of ammonia instead of Kirsch, a fifty year old woman lost her life at Altendorf. J.S.

BASLE.

Last Saturday, about 7 o'clock two young men entered a grocer's shop at the Bruderholzallee 22. The taller of the two suddenly brandished a revolver at the proprietress, Mrs. Stalder, shouting, "keep quiet or you will be shot down." The other intruder, in the meantime, went behind the counter, and emptied the till containing about 900f., as well as some deeds and titles; after having helped themselves they took to their heels. The police have opened an investigation, and it is hoped that the fugitives will be brought to book before long for their audacious crime, as their description has been sent to all police stations. N.Z.

The death is reported of M. Jakob Tschoff-Müller, a noted architect and member of the Grand Council. N.Z.

Basle will hold a second Mozart festival this year, from May 9 to 17, in view of last year's success. The general musical direction will again be in the hands of Dr. Felix Weingartner, who will conduct two symphony concerts and two operatic productions. Three operas will be given—"Così fan Tutti," "Figaro," and "Don Giovanni," and in addition a concert performance of "Idomeneo." The Basle Choral Society (Gesangverein) will sing the "Requiem" in Basle Cathedral, and this year the Busch Quartet will again give one of three afternoon recitals of chamber music. An exhibition of Mozart literature will be open during the festival.

GENEVA.

Mme. Lachenal, widow of M. Adrien Lachenal, former Federal Councillor and President of the Swiss Confederation, died at Geneva at the age of 75. T.G.

APPENZELL A. RH.

National Councillor Dr. A. Hofstetter, from Gais, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. M. Hofstetter has been a Member of Parliament since 1921. N.Z.Z.

ST. GALL.

An explosion took place at the Drogerie Vollenweider in Gossau, followed by a serious fire, considerable damage was done to the building and the whole stock was destroyed. N.Z.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Hermann Uehlinger, who died at Neunkirch at the age of 70 has left 210,000f. to be divided amongst various charitable institutions. J.S.

* * *

As successor to the late M. Waldvogel, M. Lieb, member of the Peasant Party has been elected a member of the State Council. J.S.

* * *

The municipal authorities of Schaffhausen and the North Switzerland Power Co. have jointly applied to the Swiss Government for a concession to establish a new hydro-electric station on the Rhine, near Diessenhofen.

GRISONS.

News has been received from Bavaria of the death of Count Maximilian de Bassus, Chamberlain and Councillor of the Bavarian Crown and Major of Cavalry.

He was only 62 years old, he leaves a wife, Countess Milena, née Hrzic-Topska, and a son, now Count Thomas De Bassus.

The De Bassus family originates from Poschiavo, and is one of the oldest patrician families of that borough. The late Count De Bassus had been to Poschiavo during the war, as the guest of the Albrici family, now in occupation of his ancestral residence. It had been a great pleasure for him to visit his place of origin, and he intended to have returned shortly. He died in Munich on the 26th of January, and was buried there.

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.

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

During my earlier school-days—I am somewhat ashamed to confess that I have forgotten the exact year—we took part in the Pestalozzi Celebration, and well do I remember how bravely we sang appropriate chorals and how eagerly we all read "Lienhard & Gertrud." Years passed and I found myself at Yverdon, there to finish my school education and there to spend one of the happiest years of my youth. Well do I remember the Pestalozzi monument there. Another such monument stands at Zurich, just off the Bahnhofstrasse and testifies there to the loving esteem and reverence the founder of our schools is held by our compatriots.

And, as an article on Pestalozzi, written by Carey Bonner in *The New Chronicle of Christian Education* on January 8th, 1931, has evoked a flood of memories in my mind, I hope it may do likewise in yours, dear Readers, and if it does not, the reading of what Pestalozzi did and what he stood and stands for will not do you any harm.

The Man.

A visitor to the Country Fairs and Open Markets in the Swiss Canton of Aargau about the year 1775 might have seen a man in the prime of life offering goods for sale to the people round about him. He was of striking appearance, and unlike a professional pedlar. Tall, spare, and shabbily clothed, with the face of a dreamer, on which sadness and kindness were strangely mingled, he soon attracted the attention of the curious peasants. His wares were chiefly cotton handkerchiefs, prints and threads. These he quickly sold because they were cheap and of a good quality.

He was Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, Philanthropist and Educator, a contemporary of Raikes. Leaving his native town of Zurich, he had settled in the country near Bür, building there a place called Neuhof—the new Farm. Here he hoped to devote the profits of farming to educating some poor children. The farm, however, proved a failure. But refusing to be turned from his purpose, he used the building as a home for neglected children of the lowest type of humanity. For these he gave his all, so that they might drink milk he was content with cold water.

In the hours unoccupied by elementary teaching, or for instruction in morals and religion, he set his young pupils to various forms of manual labour, such as Gardening, Cheese and Butter making, and Spinning of Cotton. Hence his going as salesman in the country markets. Handwork, however, was used not merely for money-making, but as an essential part of the young people's education.

We get one other glimpse of this man, illustrating Lord Brougham's well-known saying: "The schoolmaster is abroad, and I trust to him, armed with his primer, against the soldier in full military array."

The celebrated statesman thus pitted against each other two great world-forces, material and spiritual, destructive and constructive. Test his statement by the following incident:

The scene is Paris, the year 1802. A Swiss schoolmaster eagerly seeks to interview the French Emperor in order to interest him in the national education of children. He is rebuffed. Bonaparte scornfully refuses to see him, saying, "I have something better to do than consider questions of A B C."

To-day, what is the relative position of the two men in the eyes of thinking people.

The one is dethroned, Napoleon, mad with the lust of ambition, is looked upon merely as an incarnation of ruthless brute force. The other is crowned. He was Pestalozzi, now acknowledged to be the father of modern education. One of the great educators of to-day says, "No single feature of popular education has failed to receive stimulus and profit from his work."

For the portraiture of the man and his life-work I know nothing finer than the inscription endured the pangs of poverty. Sympathy was born of suffering. He sought to learn what were the essentials of manhood: what was common to all, apart from the difference in outward position, between monarch and peasant. upon the monument raised to his memory by

the grateful folk of Yverdon. The words are ablaze with fire. They burn with the flame of deathless truth and love.

The first sentence flashing out is:

“Saviour of the Poor.”

To help the poor and neglected was the supreme passion of his life. Pestalozzi himself

He saw that the greatness of humanity was in the realm of soul and spirit. He proclaimed the right of every man to live this soul-life. His axiom was that each human being, whatever his position was entitled to the full growth of the faculties with which he was born.

He held that every father should be an educator of his child. The careful study of his son's development gave shape and direction to his ideas, and when he failed as a cultivator of the soil, he became a cultivator of the soul, and opened his first school for children of the poor.

So, in principle and practice, Pestalozzi democratised education. The instruments for training he found in rightfully using the daily life and experiences of the child. He taught that “the aim of education is not to turn out good tailors, bootmakers, tradesmen or soldiers as such; but to turn out tailors, bootmakers, tradesmen and soldiers who are in the highest meaning of the word, men.”

Pestalozzi aimed to give each poor child a true childhood.

Fichte, the great German philosopher, said of him: “Pestalozzi's essential aim has been to elevate the lower classes, and efface all difference between them and the cultured class; it is not only popular education that is thus realised, but national education, and Pestalozzi's doctrine has enough power to help nations and the whole human race to rise out of the miserable state in which they were wallowing.”

But Pestalozzi lacked practicality, and, through this lack, his school at Neuhof had to be given up. Undaunted by the failure, and moved still by a heart of compassion, he became:

“A Father of the Fatherless.”

Come, in thought, to the town of Stanz in 1788. See this man gathering together a band of fatherless children. In an age when it was the custom to put orphans with peasants who worked them for personal profit, compelling them to be beggars for the masters gain, he, with no rules but the law of love, by giving them exercise, games and moral and spiritual training, sought to surround them with the true atmosphere of home. So, by the redemptive service of grace, he won them to God. Among these fifty little beggar orphans he lived. In his poverty he shared his bread with them, tending them in sickness and health. Caring nothing for the opinion of the world, anxious only to win the trust and understanding of the children, this noble man lived like a beggar himself in order to teach beggars to live like men. Loving and training his own boy, he lived too for other people's children, and loved them into the kingdom of heaven.

Once more failure overtook him. Through untoward circumstances, and because he had no administrative ability, his orphan home had to be abandoned. Downcast, but not despairing, he was now for some years to become:

“Preacher to the People.”

He embodied his ideas on education in concrete form by writing a novel *Leonard and Gertrude*. With no money to buy paper he wrote it between the lines of an old account book. When published, it soon won for itself a world-wide fame. In it he emphasised his great basal principle, that all true education must begin in the home, and that the greatest educator is the mother. In the following years, book after book, essay after essay, flowed from his pen. Philosophers, educators, monarchs, thinkers, alike recognised his greatness, and from all parts of the world visitors came to examine his theories and methods.

After his death his educational writings were collected into eighteen volumes. Their influence was immediate, and he, more than any other educationist of his time, affected the ideas and methods of teaching throughout the world. He was a seer and intuitionist. Froebel who was for a time one of his assistants, systematised his principles; and Herbart was largely influenced by them in his philosophy of Education. The man himself, however, was greater than all his theories.

The enthusiasm for teaching was in Pestalozzi's blood, and, with all his defects, he was a great teacher, and produced phenomenal results.

His next notable contribution to mankind was as the:

“Founder of the Elementary Day School.”

School.”

The ordinary day school of his time was often what Comenius in an earlier age described as “a slaughter-house of the mind.” Pestalozzi's chief work was with the little children and their elementary education. He introduced the slate into the day school, and also practically created object teaching in the best sense.

John Milton, in his essay on Education, had commended illustrating the *word by the thing*. Pestalozzi went further. He said you must perform first give a conception of the thing before you teach the *word*.

Let primary teachers who pride themselves on being so very “modern” in their “nature talks” take a peep into Pestalozzi's school of more than a century ago. How did he teach geography? Not from a book but by taking the scholars out into the open air, through a valley with a stream, then up the hillside from which point they were helped to note every feature of the landscape. By question and answer he led forth their own powers of observation. Then each child took some clay, and on reaching the school-house each one was placed before a table and had to model in clay his conception of the conformation of the river and the valley. Have we found a twentieth century method better than that for teaching physical geography?

Listen, also, to this: “What we teach is determined by the demands of the developing powers of the child. It is intimately connected with the things he can already do. Learning is for him an affair of life. He is filled with the spirit of it, hence the joy it gives him. Instead of dissipating his activities we concentrate them; instead of amusing the boys, we fill them with enthusiasm; instead of stifling their powers, we breathe with them the breath of life.”

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR, BASLE.

A modern industries fair is the representative of the progress and of the adaptability to the times we live in, and consequently fulfills a considerable economic and cultural object. Up-to-date business men therefore plan to visit at some time or other, such important fairs as those of London (or Birmingham), Leipzig, Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Milan, Utrecht, Malmö and Basle.

Basle, the city of the Swiss Industrial Fair, is ideally situated for the purpose. A glance at the map at once shows that it is placed at the point of intersection of central European traffic. The railway stations of Basle record enormous figures for passenger and goods traffic. The Basle Rhine Port, too, has made great strides.

Switzerland, as is well known, produces various high-class industrial commodities, and her peculiar circumstances compel her to put in plenty of hard work. The excellence of Swiss manufactures is known all over the world, despite which there still remains a great deal of ignorance as to her industrial capacity. Mention of the fact that at the last industrial census in 1929 the country had a population of 4 millions, of whom 409,000 were employed in 8,500 factories, may help to clear the air.

The supply of samples, classified in twenty industrial groups at the Basle Fair gives a clear illustration of the diversity of Swiss manufactures and of the progressive spirit of the country.

Figures speak louder than words. The space for exhibits has more than doubled in twelve years, and the attendance has likewise considerably increased. Last year there were some 200,000 visitors to the fair, from at least thirty countries. The vigorous development of the Fair is expressed in the entirely modern, practical and neat buildings, which were erected between 1924 and 1926 at a cost of over 10 million Swiss francs.

This year's Swiss Sample Fair will be open from April 11 to April 21. Information of every kind concerning it can be obtained from the Direction of the Fair and from all Swiss Consulates. The entrance cards provide for special facilities for visitors from abroad, and likewise for reduced fares, details of which we can supply if required. For the benefit of English-speaking visitors it may be mentioned that interpreters will readily be placed at their service. The Direction of the Fair is indeed prepared to meet visitors in every way, so that business transactions there may be as pleasant and as profitable as possible.

Travellers' Gazette.

Kopie aus der Neuen Zürcher Zeitung, 15.1.1931.

Ein Beispiel Aktiver Krisen-Bekämpfung.

In der gegenwärtigen Zeit, wo die ungünstige Lage der Weltwirtschaft auch die Schweiz stärker als bisher in Mitleidenschaft ziehen droht, heisst es lebhafter als je nach Mitteln und Wegen Ausschau zu halten, die geeignet sind, die Zeit der Depression mit möglichst wenig Schäden zu überstehen. Das in der “Schweiz. Arbeitgeberzeitung” geschilderte vorbildliche Vorgehen einer schweizerischen Fabrik, der *Scintilla Aktiengesellschaft in Solothurn*, verdient daher, in den weitesten Kreisen beachtet zu werden.

Diese Fabrik, die stark vom Weltmarkt abhängig ist—gehen doch 95 Prozent ihrer Erzeugnisse ins Ausland—hatte bereits durch teilweise Schliessung der Betriebe am Samstagvormittag und Freitagmittag die Arbeitszeit verkürzen müssen. Infolge der Lohn- und Preissenkungen im Ausland sah sie sich von neuem gezwungen, Einsparungen zu machen. Die Leitung war aber entschlossen, alles

andere zu versuchen, ehe zur einer weitern Kuerzung von Arbeitszeit oder Loehnen geschriften werde. So vermehrte sie denn in erster Linie das Personal zum Studium von Verbilligungen, neuen Arbeitsmethoden, bessern Spezialwerkzeugen, Vorrichtungen und Maschinen, um auf diesem Wege die Produktionskosten zu senken und konkurrenzfähig zu bleiben. Um aber alle Einsparungsmöglichkeiten erschopfend zu ermitteln, wurde auch ein *Aufruf* an das ganze Personal erlassen, in dem auf die Lage des Unternehmens hingewiesen und jeder Arbeiter, jeder Angestellte und jede Arbeitnehmerin aufgefordert wurde, Vorschläge in der Richtung besserer Organisation und zu Einsparungen zu machen. Fuer jeden verwertbaren Vorschlag wurden Praemien versprochen.

Dieser Appell an die Solidarität, das Vertrauen und das lebendige Interesse der Arbeiterschaft hatte einen ganz ausserordentlich Erfolg. Die Vorschläge ließen außerordentlich ein und werden nun, jeder einzeln, auf ihre Verwendbarkeit geprüft. Wenn auch nur ein Teil sich als wirklich durchführbar erweisen wird, so dient er doch bestimmt ein praktischer Erfolg erreicht werden. Die lebhafte Anteilnahme an dem Gedeihen der Firma, die durch diese Aufforderung zur Mitarbeit aller angespornt wurde, drückt sich bereits in einer frischeren Arbeitsfreude aus. Ganz besondere Achtung verdient es aber, dass von Arbeitern ausdrücklich gewisse Verbesserungen vorgeschlagen wurden, um nach ihrer Durchführung die *Akkordsätze* senken zu können. Diese Beispiele zeigen, wie gross unter den Arbeitern das Vertrauen für die Lage der Unternehmung ist, wie viel grösser als unter ihren Führern, die aus sehr durchsichtigen Motiven jeden Gedanken an Solidarität und Werkgemeinschaft ablehnen. Insbesondere aber wird jedermann, der in den Klassengegenseitheiten eine Gefahr für unser Volk und unsere Wirtschaft insbesondere in schweizer Zeit erblickt, sich freuen über einen derartigen Erfolg der Zusammenarbeit und wird aehnlichen Versuchen weite Verbreitung wünschen.

GEORGE FORRER.

Amongst the several Swiss of our Colony who have attained a highly respected old age, ranks a true citizen of Winterthur, let us speak of Monsieur George Forrer.

Born the 18th of January, 1844, he settled in London as a young man of 24, the five years previously spent in France and Italy having given him a widened outlook on life. He entered an Anglo-Swiss firm, one of whose partners was Monsieur H. Vernet, the Consul for Switzerland, and already then, everything seemed to point to ever-growing consular work. Forrer filled the post of Honorary Vice-Consul for 10 years, i.e. until 1885, when further considerable obligations demanded the services of a specialist in such matters.

Meanwhile the “Fonds de Secours” had been established, its activity and benevolent work growing from week to week and much beyond the head of the then existing Consulate. Forrer became Honorary Treasurer, and during 33 years unceasingly and with the greatest concern kept things moving until his retirement from City life.

In 1878 he joined the “Société de Secours Mutuels” and a few years later was elected President, a post which he held for two decades; many are still living who can well remember his wisdom and moderation in all matters and his proud acceptance in 1902 from our late Minister, Dr. Carlin, at the bicentenary festival held during his term of office, of the embroidered banner presented by the ladies of the Colony. That is no doubt one of his finest recollections, when 332 guests sat down to dinner at the Cecil, alas! some have disappeared for ever and so has the famous hotel, but the 87 years' old veteran and “Président honoraire” still enjoys wonderful health, sits by the fireside reviewing the past with Madame Forrer, who has a knack of looking after him with much tenderness and care, sometimes scolding him for disregarding the inclemencies of our London climate.

His continued interest in all Swiss matters and good news from his three sons, scattered in countries far apart in this wide world, are some of his greatest joys.

May he long be spared to the many who see in him an example of devotion to duty and kindness to fellow citizens.

CeC.

PERSONAL.

We have just heard that the Paris Winter Salon has accepted several charming pieces of sculpture for exhibition from Mrs. Henry Binggely. The Salon, at the Grand Palais in the Champs Elysées, was opened last week by M. Doumergue, President of the French Republic, and one of Mrs. Binggely's subjects, “L'enfant au Coquillage,” was greatly admired. We wish her every success and convey to her our heartiest congratulations.