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The Swiss Observer

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We receive from the Swiss Legation the following Communiqué:

At a recent meeting of the General Committee of the Swiss Colony, held under the chairmanship of the Swiss Minister, it has been decided that no official celebration of the Swiss national festival shall take place in London on the 1st of August this year. While regretting the negative decision passed after careful consideration, the Committee has come to the conclusion that for various weighty reasons the circumstances make it necessary to take this course, which, however, as has been emphasized at the meeting, shall create no precedent for the coming years. The subject will be dealt with anew at a Meeting of the Committee in January 1932, with a view to make proper arrangements for that year's celebration.



FEDERAL.

SERVICES TO SWITZERLAND.

A Restaurant-car day express will run from London (Victoria) at 9 a.m. to Basle on Wednesdays and Saturdays from June 27th to September 12th.

The through carriage, which runs from Dieppe daily in connection with the 10 a.m. service from London, obviates the necessity of having to change trains in Paris. It is attached at the Gare de Lyon to the 9.20 p.m. express for Lausanne, Montreux, etc.

The Anglo-Swiss express in connection with the 2 p.m. Boulogne service from London is now running from Calais in connection with the 4 p.m. service from London.

On Tuesdays and Fridays from May 22nd to June 23rd, and on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from June 25th to September 12th there will be an additional service from Victoria at 2 p.m. via Boulogne and Basle to Lucerne.

An attractive feature of the Anglo-Swiss arrangements this summer will be a short-sea service to Basle on Friday nights, leaving London at 8 p.m. on May 22nd, and every Friday from July 17th to September 17th.

SWISS AIR TRAFFIC.

The Swiss Air Traffic Union are arranging for an air service between Cherbourg and Basle in connection with arrivals and sailings of Canadian Pacific "Empress" liners at Cherbourg.

"FAMILY TICKETS" ON SWISS RAILWAYS.

In order to encourage travel in Switzerland and to render it more accessible to every purpose, the Swiss State Railways have decided to introduce so-called "family tickets" from May 1st. These tickets, which are somewhat similar to those issued on the French railways, will be available for families comprising both parents and at least two children and will carry a reduction of 23 to 25 per cent. on ordinary return fares and of 18 to 21 per cent. on combined excursion tickets. They can be obtained for all but extremely short journeys and their validity will normally extend to ten days. Family tickets valid for 45 days will, however, also be issued, but the reduction on the ordinary fare will, in this case, be smaller and range from 12 to 18 per cent., according to the distance, which cannot be less than 300 km. return. The new tickets will be issued simply on presentation of a form filled in and signed by the head of the family.

SWITZERLAND'S RADIO ADJUSTMENT.

Switzerland has just solved the problem of broadcasting in a country where there are three official languages—French, German, and Italian.

The Federal Government has taken over all the existing broadcasting stations, and three large stations are to be erected—one at Lucerne, for German Switzerland; a second at Lausanne, for French Switzerland; and the third at Bellinzona,

for Italian Switzerland, the general company which will be formed by the State, will broadcast in turn in different languages.

FEDERAL ACCOUNTS 1930

Switzerland's closed Federal accounts for 1930 show a revenue surplus of Frs. 6,700,000 (about £268,000), after making allowance for debt reduction; if the amount paid toward debt amortisation be excluded, the surplus stands at Frs. 105,000,000 (£4,200,000).

SWISS EXPLORERS' FILM.

The Swiss Expedition to Tibet is on its way back to Switzerland.

The expedition has surveyed the surroundings of Minija Gugkar, the highest peak of the region, estimated to be 24,600 feet high.

A film has been taken which is being keenly anticipated by scientists and geologists.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Emil Rauschenbach, Manager at the Head Office of the Crédit Suisse died at the age of 60.

N.Z.

GRAUBUENDEN.

The Rev. Hubert F. Hayward has announced his acceptance of the chaplaincy of the English Church at Arosa. Mr. Hayward succeeded the Archdeacon of Gloucester as Vicar of St. Mark's Gloucester, where during his incumbency he has seen many improvements carried out in the church and schools.

N.Z.

VEVEY.

The death is reported of M. Horace Micheli, former National Councillor, at the age of 65. For many years the deceased was political Director of the "Journal de Genève," he was also a director of the "Schweizerische Despach Agentur." M. Micheli has rendered great services to his native canton and to the confederation. He took an active part in the administration of the International Red Cross Committee.

N.Z.

TIGINO.

The death is reported from Vocallo of Dr. Rovio Noseda a well-known medical practitioner and former member of the Grand Council.

N.Z.

CONCERT—NEWS.

We have great pleasure to inform our readers that a Pianoforte Recital will be given at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.1, on Tuesday, May 19th, by Mlle. Lina Pugni.

It is no doubt of interest to the Colony to learn that Mlle. Pugni is a compatriot of ours who enjoys a remarkable reputation on the Continent.

This young artiste began her studies at Varese (Italy) and passed her exams with distinction at the conservatory in Milan at the early age of 16, thus obtaining the diploma as a qualified teacher of music. Her ambition was, however, to choose the concert platform for her sphere of activities. At the age of 17, she had already received an offer of a concert tour through Italy, which offer, although very flattering, she declined. Her début was made at Milan in December 1928, and a further recital was given in April 1929 again at Milan. The following press opinions denote that Mlle. Pugni is well on the way to make her name on the concert platform:

"Lina Pugni secured a remarkable success, showing brilliant qualities of technique and sensitiveness and lightness of touch."—*Corriere Della Sera, Milan*, December 4th, 1928.

"In works by Beethoven, Chopin and Pick Mangiagalli, interpreted and rendered with marvellous clearness, she met with the warmest appreciation."—*Teatrali Convegni, Milan*, December 7th, 1928.

"Lina Pugni showed again that she possesses first-class gifts as a pianist both from the point of view of technique and of interpretation."—*La Sera, Milan*, April 6th, 1929.

We also wish to mention that Mlle. Pugni is the niece of our popular compatriot M. Meschini, Joint Proprietor, of Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W. and we sincerely hope that many of our readers and their friends will make it a point to be present at Wigmore Hall in order to assure Mlle. Pugni of a reception to which her high artistic attainments fully entitles her.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

A Wise Man:

When "ck" applied this flattering epithet to Kyburg in one of our recent issues, he coupled it with the explanation that Kyburg simply does not answer criticisms of his writings in the Swiss Observer. I wish to qualify that statement, because, as it stands, based on a negation, it won't do and it gives a somewhat wrong idea of Kyburg's really very combative spirit.

Criticism is what we, collaborators of the Swiss Observer invite, nay implore of our Reader! We get much too little of it and most of our Readers are far too lazy, or too shy, or too illiterate, or too stand-offish to criticise our efforts. They take it all in, swallow our arguments silently, or then swear at us inwardly, but that is all. It is positively heartrending sometimes to find that one has put an absolutely lopsided argument before one's readers in an effort to goad them into volatility only to be met with an empty post-bag, with an utter, cold, frosty, icy indifference. Who, I ask you, would like to work under such conditions? Who, I ask you again, would be able to continue to care for such readers, to like them even, to think of them as members of that big family all belonging to the Swiss Observer's friendly circle? Echo answers "who?"

And yet, there are many questions, vitally affecting not only the Swiss Colony in England, but every one of its members. Questions that require to be discussed. Questions that can only be answered by having them threshed out in the open. Questions that every member of our Swiss Colony ought to consider, to digest and on which he or she ought to formulate an answer. What does it matter whether that answer is wrong or right, whether it is put forth in oratorical style or in a simple, straight-forward Swiss style. But what matters enormously is that you, dear Reader, ought to set your grey matter, if any, in motion and to produce an answer to those questions. As it is, there are only quite a few members of the Swiss Colony who take the trouble to think about these problems. Most of them are satisfied to say "hear, hear" now and again and others simply won't think at all.

In our last few issues the problem of after-dinner speeches has been broached and discussed by one or two. Admirable articles have been written. But have the readers responded and said or written something? Not they! They are content to let others do the work. They will be content to sigh and suffer, curse and swear—oh yes they will!—when next time their dancing time is taken up by a dry and verbose self-styled orator and when they have to listen to figures and items which have already been, or will be circulated in printed form in the ordinary course. But will they seize the opportunity they have now to protest against such after-dinner dry as sawdust oratory? Will they unite in their shouts to make such speeches an offence against good taste in future? Not they! There they sit over the breakfast, read these articles, say, "yes, yes, he is quite right and you remember my dear how we had got the "fidgets" that time that pompous individual made his interminable speech and could not finish it."

But do they sit down, grab the next pen or pencil and a sheet of paper and write in to the Swiss Observer to back up "ST"? A thousand times NO, because that would entail thinking out the phrases to be put on the paper. That would mean staying in on a Saturday or Sunday Morning for another half-hour. That might mean, who knows, that some other fellow would write in next week and tear their letter to bits and show up their arguments for the foolish stuff they might be! They are afraid. Not only are they indolent, lazy and shirking a duty, they are also AFRAID! Oh yes, when they sit, next September in the Festütte at The Berne HYSPA, and some Swiss Federal Councillor fires their imagination with a patriotic oration, they will feel how true it is that they are worthy descendants of William Tell. Sure! But here, away from the heartening Festüttenbetrieb, they are AFRAID, afraid even to risk writing some criticism, afraid of writing what they think is right, afraid to help the Swiss Colony along its path. Ye Gods!

I could write much more nastily if I wished and if the Editor who is always afraid of the circulation going down, would let me. But, dear Reader, you will have guessed by now, if you are