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The Swiss Observer

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LONDON, MAY 30, 1931.

PRICE 3d.

Where are you going to-day? To Herne Hill, for the Swiss Sports, of course!

SWISS SPORTS.

We particularly wish to draw the attention of our readers and their friends to the Swiss Sports Meeting which will take place to-day.

The Committee of the Swiss Sports has spared neither time or money to make this event a great success, and we hope that many of our compatriots and their friends will make the journey to Herne Hill.

We feel sure that they will not be disappointed, it will be an afternoon well spent. Therefore make your mind up now, and do not fail those who have given their time and money freely, that you and your friends should have an enjoyable afternoon. Don't say "I may come along" say "I will be there" and we feel sure you won't regret it.

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FEDERAL.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN BASEL.

The Board of the Bank for International Settlements proposes to distribute a dividend of 6 per cent. The Bank's net profits for the first 10½ months of its existence total 11,186,521 Swiss francs, out of which a sum equal to 5 per cent of such profits is placed to the statutory reserve fund.

After payment of the proposed dividend of 6 per cent per annum, calculated from the respective dates of the paying-up of the Bank's subscribed capital to March 31 last, there is a balance of 5,470,945 francs, which will be dealt with in conformity with article 53 of the Bank's statutes.

The Board appointed the following new members to the board:—M. G. Bachmann, President of the Swiss National Bank; M. Rooth, Governor of the Bank of Sweden; and M. Vissering, Chairman of the Bank of the Netherlands.

The board also sanctioned the grant of credits for moderate periods to a sum of 150,000,000 Swiss francs (£6,000,000) to be employed in financing international trade.

The report and accounts were duly adopted at the first general meeting of the Bank, attended by seventy representatives of the larger banks, and the dividend recommendation and appropriations for the reserve and other funds approved.

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR SCHULTHESS IN PARIS.

Federal Councillor Schulthess, accompanied by M. Dumant, Swiss Minister in Paris, has paid a visit to the French Colonial Exhibition.

NEXT SWISS PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

The next sitting of the two chambers will start on June the 1st and will last about three weeks.

M. MOTTA'S NEW POST.

The European Commission for the study of Economic problems, consisting of 17 members has elected Federal Councillor G. Motta, by recommendation of the French Foreign Minister, M. Briand, its President.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of M. Baumberger, National Councillor. The deceased was Editor from 1881-1886 of the "Appenzeller Nachrichten" and was appointed in 1887 Chief Editor of the "Ostschweiz" a post which he held for 18 years. In 1904 he joined the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Nachrichten" where

he remained until 1919. He became a member of Parliament in the year 1919. He was also a member of the Zurich Grand Council and the Cantonal Council. He rendered great services to the Conservative party. His successor in the National Council will be M. Schneller from Zurich.

N.Z.

LUCERNE.

Of the many Whitsuntide accidents in Switzerland the most serious took place on Lake Lucerne. A motor-boat with six passengers on board sank, and only two of the six were saved. The occupants, well-to-do Lucerne people, were three women, two men, and a boy.

The two saved were M. Bachmann, who lost his wife and son, and Mme. Mehli, who lost her husband. A Mlle. Emmenegger was also drowned.

At about the same time when passengers were landing from another steamer the gangway gave way, and twenty-four persons were thrown into the lake. The water at that spot not being very deep, all were rescued, but various personal belongings, such as handbags, jewellery, &c., were lost.

There were many English passengers in the steamer, but they had kept in the background, and therefore escaped without a ducking.

GLARUS.

New landslide movements at the Kilchentstock have been observed but there seems to be no immediate danger at present.

N.Z.Z.

GENEVA.

Burglars entered a shop of the Co-operative Society in the St. Jean quarter. They opened a safe and took over 20,000 f. The safe was afterwards thrown into the river Rhône. No trace of the intruders has yet been found.

N.Z.

NEUCHATEL.

The newly constituted Grand Council assembled last Monday and elected M. A. Bolle as its President. The first and second Vice Presidents are M. Charles Perrin and M. Walter Fattot.

N.Z.Z.

ST. GALLEN.

M. Loepfe-Benz (Rorschach) has been elected a member of the State Council. The new member of Parliament belongs to the Liberal Party. M. Messmer (conservative) has been confirmed for a new period.

N.Z.Z.

VAUD.

From Lausanne comes the news that M. Maurel-Marcel, a former National Councillor, banker and lawyer, died at the age of 88. He was a co-founder of the Montreux-Bernese Oberland Railway, the Leysin health resort, etc., etc.

N.Z.

TESSIN.

M. Giovanni Tamò, member of the Grand council, and a well-known and popular personality in Railway circles, celebrated his 70th birthday. He has rendered great services in founding a holiday home for railway men at Brencino near Brissago.

N.Z.

FOOTBALL.

The Scottish Association football team redeemed their recent loss of prestige on the Continent by defeating Switzerland by three goals to two at Geneva. A record crowd of about 16,000 spectators gathered to see the game, which was played under a scorching sun.

N.Z.

The Scots did not appear to be taking the encounter very seriously, and at one moment with the score level, at two goals all, the excited crowd confidently expected Switzerland to win. About ten minutes before time, however, Scotland scored the winning goal. The match on the whole did not enhance the reputation of British football.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

The last few week-ends, especially the Sundays, have been of a nature to induce sleep after dinner and reading for those whose earlier sins of gluttony forbid heavy meals in their later years. There is nothing like doing some really heavy reading on a Sunday afternoon. It acts as a tonic and has the additional advantage that it makes you feel virtuous and conscious of duty well done. It is quite true that last Sunday afternoon I beguiled some hours in reading Edgar Wallace's "Three just men" and that I derived considerable amusement therefrom. But then, what is good for me, is not necessarily good for you, dear Reader, and I would not have you believe that I am really a model in every respect. No, I have my modesty, and I won't have you think that and make me blush. Believe me, Kyburg is only human and as full of sin, as you are, albeit you may not know it!

Well then, I find the following highly interesting biographical study in the Church Quarterly Review of April,

Zwingli's Theory of Church and State:
a paper which may interest many who take part in discussions of a politico-religious nature now and then.

The Reformation of Zurich has tended to be overshadowed by the greater reforming movements of which Wittenberg and Geneva were the centres. For the history of Switzerland it was indeed of great importance as it established a permanent division between the Catholic and the Protestant cantons. Outside the boundaries of that country its political effects were insignificant. But upon the history of religious ideas it exerted an influence out of all proportion to the narrow stage upon which it was set. Zurich was an independent focus of Protestantism and gave rise to a type of Evangelicism which differed in important respects from that of Luther and of Calvin. For this country it has indeed a special interest. "A better example," says Maitland, "of purely spiritual power can hardly be found than that exerted in England by Bullinger . . . Bishops and Puritans alike appeal to him and argue their case before him as though he was the judge. The *Zurich Letters* published by the Parker Society provide abundant evidence of this. So in the Vestiarian Controversy Laurence Humphreys and Thomas Sampson lay their fears before him. They write in great agitation, for the Queen has authorised the wearing of the surplice and other emblems of Popery. But Bullinger replies that their use is a matter of indifference, and that in any case the order which enjoins them proceeds from the civil authority and does not commit the church. So again Gualter assures Bishop Cox that for all its sound apostolic sanction there was no reason why the practice of the election of ministers by their congregations should be introduced into England. In Zurich, he points out, the ministers are commonly appointed by Catholic patrons who "suffer themselves to be so far controlled by our most noble senate as not to appoint any incumbent to the Church who has not been brought up in our Church and approved by a lawful examination."

It may not be an ideal arrangement—it is, in fact, due to "the iniquity of our fathers." But it is one which cannot be altered without peril and disturbance, and in practice it works exceedingly well. Elizabeth was delighted with such counsels—so different from those which she received from the uncompromising theologians of Geneva, who seemed incapable of understanding the difficulties of a ruler. At Zurich her position was better appreciated, and Bullinger believed in her sincerity and sympathised with her Erastianism. He followed, indeed, the tradition which he had inherited from his great predecessor, Zwingli. The Re-

formation at Zurich had been singularly free from those collisions between the spiritual and the temporal authority which occurred elsewhere, and although this was in part due to the force which Zwingli's personality had exerted, it is also to be attributed to his teaching upon church and state and the relations of the one to the other.

Zwingli was born on January 1st, 1484, at Wildhaus in the Toggenburg of a family of well-to-do peasant proprietors. He received an excellent education, studying under Bünzli at Basle and Heinrich Wölfflin (Lupulus) at Berne. He proceeded thence to the University of Vienna, and having completed his course he returned as a teacher to the school of St. Martin at Basle, where he came under the influence of the reformer, Wyttembach. In 1506 he took his degree and became parish priest at Glarus. He was at this time full of enthusiasm for Erasmus and for his programme of a "restitution of Christianity" through the "philosophia Christi." His relations with the great Dutch humanist were in later years clouded over, but at this time he declared that he never allowed a day to pass without reading some portion of his works. It was at Glarus that he laid the foundation of his knowledge of the Greek and Latin Fathers, and developed his predilection for St. Augustine whom, long after, in spite of serious differences upon the doctrine of original sin, he describes as *vir sanctissimus et orthodoxus*. To this period belong also his first writings—protests against the mercenary system of military service of which, even at this early date, he was the sworn enemy. But where the service of the Pope was concerned he seems to have had no scruples, and as chaplain to the Swiss contingent he was present at Novara (1513), and Marignano (1515). The French interest predominated, however, at Glarus; in 1516 Zurich denounced its alliance with the Pope, and Zwingli, who was in receipt of a papal pension, moved to the famous pilgrimage centre of Einsiedeln. He remained there for two years, and gained an insight into the corruption of the Catholic practice of the time. There it was that he began to "preach the Gospel" that is, to expound the Gospel of the day at Mass. But he was still a Catholic, and when in 1518 he was offered the position of acolyte chaplain to the Pope he accepted it. At the close of the year he was appointed "people's priest" at the Great Minster of Zurich where he began a regular exposition of St. Matthew and the Acts, which aroused the immediate opposition of the religious orders. In the summer of 1516 the city was attacked by the plague. Zwingli remained at his post and did good work among the sick till he himself fell a victim. There is little doubt that this experience led to a quickening of his spiritual consciousness and to a deepening of his sense of mission. He began to attack monasticism, purgatory, the invocation of the saints, and finally—and this caused serious trouble—the system of tithes. He had the advantage of a powerful ally. The printer Frotschner, became one of his strongest supporters, established a press at Zurich, and placed it at his disposal. In 1520 Zwingli renounced his papal pension. He had by this time acquired the citizenship of Zurich, and so effectively did he attack the mercenary system that Francis I. was unable to obtain that alliance with the city which he desired. But his policy had brought him into conflict with many powerful interests. Feeling against him began to run high, and in 1520 the Council issued an order bidding the preachers limit themselves to that exposition of "the holy Gospels and the Epistles of the Apostles" which they felt to be compatible with Catholicism (*wie dieses auch die pübstliche Rechte zugeben*) and to avoid all "inevitable innovations" (*zufälligen Neurungen*) and matters of human devising (*menschen erfunden Sachen*). But Zwingli paid not the least regard to this admonition, and continued, as in the past, to advance his views upon matters religious, political, and social. He felt sure of his ground and events proved that he was right.

At the time of the advent of Zwingli, Zurich enjoyed a reputation in the Confederation second only to Berne, and its alliance was courted by the rulers of Europe. At the same time there were not wanting signs of demoralisation in all sections of society. The magistrates were corrupted by the pensions offered to them as bribes by foreign princes, while in increasing numbers of poorer classes were abandoning agriculture to take service as mercenaries in quarrels in which their country had no concern. Within the church there was a corresponding degeneration. Immorality was rampant, and the Bishop of Constance derived an annual income of 4,000 guilders from a capitation tax levied upon the illegitimate children of his clergy. But the success of Luther in Germany had provided a stimulus towards reform which was likely to be effective not only in the religious, but also in the social sphere, while the democratic constitution of the city made it possible for a reformer

to advance his views with a freedom which would not have been tolerated elsewhere. At Zurich, moreover, the relations between church and state had long been settled in a manner very little favourable to the former. The so-called Waldmannische Concordat (c 1510) very fairly represents the position at the outset of the Reformation. The clergy were compelled to pay taxes; they were amenable to the jurisdiction of the civil courts and were in all matters subject to the law of the land. The Council held itself responsible for public morals, and with the concurrence of the ecclesiastical authorities, issued such ordinances with regard to swearing, blasphemy, dancing, and witch-craft as it deemed fitting, and enforced them with appropriate penalties. Zwingli took full advantage of this situation.

TO BE CONTINUED.

SWITZERLAND AND PROTECTIONISM.

Before the War, Switzerland, as well as a number of European States, ranked among the nations professing free trade tendencies. Customs duties on imported goods averaged very low, thus influencing favourably the general cost of living. Then came the Great War and the post-war period determining far-reaching modifications of international exchanges, and many others as well. The most important economic changes took place during the years immediately following the War, resulting in a new orientation of international tariff policies. The long duration of the War and the sacrifices demanded of the Powers, gave rise to two parallel manifestations; nationalism in political life and protectionism in the economic sphere.

Since that time, practically all nations gradually adopted these new lines of action and it may be stated that the present tariff regime of the majority of States is far stricter than was the case before the war.

The evolution of the United States of America is particularly characteristic of the above. No one can deny but what last year's tariff revision entailed a serious tightening of the screw, strongly compromising imports of certain foreign products.

The gradual development of protectionism throughout the world, as has already been pointed out, is due, on one hand, to a period of chauvinism experienced by certain nations, and, on the other, to the fact that during the war countries were obliged to create or develop intensively certain industries, intended to make up for deficient foreign importation. In order to expand, these industries required the protection tariff rates, without which they could not compete with foreign countries, better equipped and producing under more satisfactory natural conditions than they. Switzerland followed the general trend of events to a certain extent, although, as an exporting country, it did not go so far as many other European States.

What is the exact situation of Switzerland to-day? At the beginning of 1931, Mr. Stucki, Director of the Commercial Division of the Federal Department of Public Economy, addressed a restricted commission, in terms which found an echo in our information press, revealing a certain apprehension, "an official pessimism," as was stated in certain circles. Mr. Stucki has been trying to modify the impression created by his statements. In his opinion, Switzerland should pursue in the field of international commerce, a policy of co-operation with other nations willing to reciprocate. But Mr. Stucki has doubtlessly observed, as all others having approached the question, that every attempt made during the past years to obtain a tariff agreement between the nations of the world was doomed to failure. To-day Switzerland finds its export trade checked by increasingly high tariffs barriers. A new factor of recent origin increases further the anxiety of those responsible for the country's commercial prosperity. Certain branches of our export industry, formerly strong partisans of free trade, having noticed that a number of foreign markets are gradually slipping away from them, are now beginning to wonder whether it might not prove wiser for them to concentrate their activity on the home market and to protect themselves against foreign competition by increased customs duties.

In the meantime and in spite of a divergency of opinion, our tariff system, under the temporary regime of 1921 which has been but slightly modified since that date, has, on the whole, maintained its liberal character.

Switzerland has proved its desire to persevere in the old tradition of commercial agreements, tending to reduce tariff barriers. It was for this reason that the federal government strongly supported the proposal of a more liberal tariff policy at the International Economic Conference of Geneva in 1927. Switzerland sets the example, for, contrarily to what may be observed in other

States, it does not practise protectionism under the veil of high consumption taxation, so-called luxury taxes, etc.... But by adopting the suggestions brought to the attention of the Powers, tariff rates have been kept down to a comparatively low level. As was recently demonstrated by an objective comparison made by several international organizations (League of Nations, Austrian Group of the International Chamber of Commerce, Sir Clive Morrison Bell), Swiss customs duties are among the lowest in Europe. The tariff rates of Great Britain, Belgium and Holland only show a lower average. In this connection, the fact should not be overlooked that the three nations above-mentioned are maritime countries and that their marine and international traffic are far more important than those of the Swiss Confederation, for the latter having no direct access to the sea and being poor in raw materials, is almost entirely dependent upon its agricultural and industrial production. Considering the above conditions, Switzerland's anti-protectionist attitude and willingness to open its market to foreign products is all the more striking. It would appear, however, that Switzerland has a right to demand that, by virtue of reciprocity, foreign markets should not be systematically closed to Swiss exports.

Swiss Industry & Trade.

Le 12ème Rapport du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger de la N.S.H.

Le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger vient de publier son 12ème rapport annuel. L'activité si multiple de cette institution s'est intensifiée dans tous les domaines: conférences toujours plus nombreuses, organisées dans presque tous les pays d'Europe et jusqu'en Amérique, avec le concours de représentants éminents de notre culture, tournées de films, octroi d'abonnements gratuits ou à prix réduit aux journaux du pays, aux colonies trop pauvres pour se les procurer, alimentation des bibliothèques des colonies, distribution de l'almanach Pestalozzi aux enfants, aide morale et matérielle aux recrues qui viennent de l'étranger faire leur service au pays, échange de correspondance très suivie avec des groupes dont le nombre ne cesse d'augmenter, défense des intérêts des Suisses à l'étranger dans la question des dommages de guerre et de la taxe militaire, bref, efforts dans tous les sens pour faire sentir à nos exilés que la patrie pense à eux, qu'elle est vraiment la "mère-patrie." A côté de ses tâches courantes, le Secrétariat eut à s'occuper de la propagande en faveur de la dernière collecte du leh acht; il a mené également à bien la collecte en faveur d'un pavillon suisse dans la Cité Universitaire de Paris; il a organisé, à Bâle, la 11ème Journée des Suisses à l'étranger, la landsgemeinde de nos compatriotes de l'extérior.

Signalons une ombre au tableau: si le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger est mis à réquisition pour répondre à des besoins toujours plus pressants et plus nombreux, ses ressources n'ont pas augmenté pour autant. La campagne financière qu'il a entreprise en 1930 fut loin d'obtenir le résultat désiré. C'est pourquoi l'on a décidé la fondation d'une "Union des Amis des Suisses à l'étranger," dont les membres, par le versement d'une cotisation annuelle, contribueront à consolider la base financière de l'œuvre confiée au Secrétariat. Ceux qui comprennent l'importance qu'il y a, à conserver au pays les ressources intellectuelles, morales et économiques qui représentent nos colonies, tiendront certainement à faire partie de cette "Union."

PERSONAL.

"M. Louis H. Micheli wishes to extend his sincerest thanks to the S.O., the Societies and members of the Swiss Colony in London, who have sent him messages of sympathy in his great bereavement."

R. OBERHOLZER.†

We have much pleasure to acquaint our readers, that a subscription list has been opened in order to perpetuate the memory of our compatriot M. R. Oberholzer, who was at one time one of the finest all round athletes Switzerland ever produced, in the form of a Memorial.

We recommend this appeal especially to all the members of the colony, who have at one time witnessed the glorious ascent of our compatriot to fame in the sporting community. He has been a true and faithful son to our land, and the least we can do now, is to make his resting place a sanctuary to which he was fully entitled. Subscriptions will be received at the office of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2, and by Mr. E. A. Nusse, Hon. Secretary, Swiss Club, Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte Street, W.