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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### STATE ASSISTANCE FOR THE SWISS HOTEL INDUSTRY.

The Federal Council has sanctioned a scheme involving the Confederation in a contribution of three million francs for the purpose of abating the crisis in the hotel industry. No new hotels can be built without an official "Permit" and the enjoyment of the subsidy is subject to the respective hotel concerns having instituted an unemployment fund on prescribed lines.

### ARMY RESIGNATION.

Col. Hans Juchler, instructor of the fifth division, has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, which has been accepted. Col. Juchler, a very able and talented officer, who is only 51, was for some years head of the military commission in Columbia. The resignation is said to be due to a somewhat unsavoury affair in Geneva in which the Colonel was implicated.

### FIRST OF AUGUST BADGES.

The distribution of this year's First of August badges seems to have been somewhat dilatory, in some districts, notably Thun and Burgdorf, they were unobtainable during the festivities. (We have noted a similar imperfection at the Hendon gathering in London. Ed. S.O.)

### POLAR EXPEDITION.

A Swiss expedition under the leadership of Professor Dr. Mercanton of Lausanne, has left on August 6th for Iceland, where a station is being erected on the Snaefells glacier; Mr. Th. Zingg, of Zurich, will be in charge of the meteorological observations.

### THE BROWN SHIRTS.

The wearing of "Nazi" brown shirts in Switzerland has been prohibited by a special decree issued by the Federal Council.

### THE "LIGHTER" SIDE OF THE AARAU FESTIVAL.

Though some of our London gymnasts seem to have been deprived of their fair share, the following catering figures indicate that the tastes and claims of the competitors at the Federal Gymnastic Festival were amply provided for; there were consumed in the four large halls: 500 hectoliter beer, 40,000 bottles of wine and 95,000 bottles of mineral water.

### "AUSLANDSCHWEIZER" IN THE LIME-LIGHT.

Dr. José P. Guggiari who since 1928 is the president of Republic of Paraguay, hails from the canton of Ticino; his father emigrated to South America in 1875. There is a considerable number of naturalised Swiss in Paraguay. A former president was Eduard Schärer. The Bertoins are another Ticinese family well represented and commanding much influence.

### PROF. PICCARD'S SECOND ATTEMPT.

Professor Piccard's gondola has now arrived at Dubendorf, and he is expected to make another journey heavenwards at the beginning of next week. Special arrangements have been made for a continuous wireless communication and two stations in Zurich have been reserved for this purpose. Some scientists foretell the likelihood of the professor being met by some unfriendly meteors.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Professor Charly Clerc, privat-docent at the Geneva University, has been appointed professor of French literature at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich. Born in Neuchâtel in 1882 he first studied theology, but later on developed great interest in

classic literature. Before settling down in Geneva in 1914, he was a French teacher for six years at the local school in Glarisegg (Thurgau). Prof. Clerc is a prolific writer and has distinguished himself by his translation of modern German-Swiss authors, such as Gottfried Keller, C. F. Meyer and Spitteler.

\* \* \*

The modern thief is nothing if not versatile. Early on Sunday morning an enterprising thief stole the hotel omnibus from the yard of one of the hotels, intending to motor to the Klausen race with a view of picking up sightseers. On the way there, somewhere in the canton Schwyz, the coach broke down; he left it to its fate and succeeded in stopping a passing motor car. The obliging owner unknowingly assisted the thief to get away.

### BERNE.

The States Council has prepared a comprehensive scheme for relieving unemployment in the canton during the coming winter; it necessitates the expenditure of one million francs.

### SCHWYZ.

The silk factory A. G. Stünzi Söhne in Lachen, which has been obliged to reduce its staff, has paid to each employee so dismissed, a gratuity of Frs. 100 per year of service, totalling Frs. 170,000.

### BASLE.

Rudolf Suter-Oeri, a well-known architect, has died at the age of 60. After a prolonged stay at Berlin, Paris and Berne, he finally established himself in his native town where — amongst others — he designed and erected a number of Bank buildings and hospitals.

\* \* \*

It is stated that the whole of the German-Swiss frontier from Lörrach to the Lake of Constance is practically lined with unemployed German workmen, chiefly of the building trade, who are anxiously — and we might add vainly — waiting for permits to enter Switzerland and obtain employment.

### GENEVA.

Ch. L. Empyta, the pioneer of Swiss motorizing, died in Geneva at the age of 73. He was for many years president of the Swiss Automobile Club and member of the Grand Conseil in Geneva; during the mobilisation he was in charge of the motor transport service.

### NEUCHATEL.

Some students at the Cantonal College have exhibited exceptional cleverness. During the recent examination of 24 candidates for the baccalaureate twelve managed, by some artifice, to obtain possession of the respective examination papers beforehand. Unfortunately for them the stratagem was discovered and the whole examination has been concealed, whilst two of the supposed principal culprits were dismissed from the college.

### ST. GALL.

The strike in the building trade which has lasted nearly two months seems to come to a natural end a large number of operatives having resumed work last week.

### TICINO.

Work in the granite quarries of the canton has come to a complete standstill on account of

## SWISS LEGATION, LONDON

32, QUEEN ANNE STREET, W.1.

The Swiss Legation have the honour to announce that on and after the 19th of August, 1932, the address of the Chancery of the Legation will be:

19, MONTAGU PLACE,  
BRYANSTON SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.1.

Telephone : PADDINGTON 0701.

the proposed reduction in wages; about 470 workmen are affected.

\* \* \*

A large crowd witnessed the "first turn of the spade" at Orta last Sunday, when the construction of the new Gandria road on the Italian side was officially inaugurated. The President of the province of Como delivered an oration.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Our Readers will agree that our friend "ST." has nobly earned a holiday, and from the fervent article of his auncle the Swiss National Day, we know too, that he will fit in very nicely again into the life among our beloved Swiss Mountains, Valleys, Lakes and so on. And, to be sure, I too wish him a very happy holiday and, as we say down in outer Essex, "all the very best."

On the other hand it is rather hard on some of us left behind. Not only do we miss the holiday among beautiful and congenial surroundings, not only do we continue to breathe hot and stuffy London air, but we also continue or pretend at least to continue to work for a living. And work, in these days of August, when the day is hot, the sun strong, the wind off, and business stale because sensible people are away from it, work, I say, is awful.

Most of my big clients are away. Were away last week and will be away this week. I had planned, therefore, to take it easy, to snatch a few days for Golf, to attend to jobs in my garden, to feel in short, akin to a more leisurely sort of chappie and to try out, as it were, how one might feel, had one been able to retire on one's earned income and the accumulated wealth derived therefrom. That last idea, naturally, presupposed the sudden and untimely end of all income tax collectors, to whom, individually I wish no harm, but whom, as executive officers of an association of people which, as an association and against the wishes of the vast majority of its individual members persists in spending far too much money on war and war-begging preparations. I abhor.

Now, is it not interesting to watch, how Providence again saved me from the evils of idleness? Here is my good friend "ST." going for a holiday. As I said, I have nothing against it. I think he earned it. I am only a little wee bit envious, not so much even as to make it a sin, but, the mere fact of "ST." going for his holiday, well earned, as aforesaid, means that I, poor I, have to work extra time. Is it not funny? Of course, you, dear Reader, will say it is not funny at all, because one going on holiday generally means more work for another. That's quite beside the point, because, I am told, I am different from others. At least, I am told, I am different and that not in a very flattering sense either. What I mean to convey to you is the feeling of slight personal injury which overcomes me when I think of my good friend "ST." penning that very nice article on Swiss National Day and saying to himself, "now just a line or two to Kyburg, to tell him what I expect him to do while I am away and then my work is finished for some weeks and off I go, for my holiday, my well-earned holiday."

I must say, "ST." wrote me a very charming letter, when asking me to try and fill a few columns of the S.O. while he is away. The sort of letter which fills you with secret pride, yes pride, and satisfaction, because it makes you feel as if someone really did appreciate your especial and absolutely unique gifts. The sort of letter which flatters you subtly and makes you feel a size larger, until, after due reflection you all of a sudden see the point and see that that point is "more work" and more work at a time when every right-thinking person is at the sea-side or on the hills or at the rivers and lakes or playing Golf.

(Editor's note: Well Kyburg, old boy, we think you have groused enough and you might now buckle to it and start on your job!)

First place among this week's Notes from the British Press is given to the following from "Aeroplane" 27th July, because in my present mood, as outlined above (stop it! Ed.) it gives me a vision of reaching Switzerland quickly:

### Air Transport as it should be:

The first month of operations on the accelerated Zurich — Munich — Vienna route of the "Swissair" company with the recently acquired Lockheed Orion monoplanes has shown some exceedingly interesting results.