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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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FEDERAL.

HOTEL INVESTMENTS.

According to a pamphlet just issued by the central office of the Swiss Hotel Association nearly 2,000 million francs are invested in the Swiss Hotel Industry (the figure refers to the year 1929). The value of the bare buildings is given as 1,341 million francs. The hotels gave employment to 62,217 persons of whom 53% were females; 52 million francs were paid out in wages apart from the value of 55 million representing board, lodging, uniforms, etc. The total revenue from foreign visitors is stated to be in the neighbourhood of 600 million francs while Swiss who spent their holidays abroad are said to have spent about 90 million so that Switzerland has benefited to the tune of about 510 million francs.

ZONES DISPUTE.

The final decision of the Hague Tribunal which is supposed to definitely dispose of this long drawn-out dispute is likely to open the way to varied interpretations. French interests insist on compensations for allowing the customs barrier to be restored to its original boundary.

A NAZI PARTY IN SWITZERLAND.

Several small meetings of supposed National Socialists have already taken place in several parts of the country though the authorities and the people have shown little sympathy. It is now stated that endeavours are being made to constitute a political party on the lines of the German protagonists. A Zurich architect named Fischer and an 18 year old aviator calling himself Diggemann are stated to be the chief movers.

EXEMPT FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

In conformity with modern requirements article 13 of the Federal Law dealing with military organisation has been slightly revised. Altogether exempt from military service are: the members of the Federal Council, the chancellor, the clergy (apart from army chaplains), the medical staff of hospitals, the governor and warders of prisons and all those employees of public transport undertakings (railways, etc.) whose retention in their respective places is rendered essential in case of war.

PROF. PICCARD'S FLIGHT.

Prof. Piccard managed to make his eagerly expected second ascent last Thursday. He left the aerodrome in Dubendorf soon after five in the morning and landed about 12 hours later near the lake of Garda; he reached a height of about 10½ miles. Valuable data are said to have been secured which may have an important bearing on cancer research.

Excitement has already been running high in Switzerland during the last few weeks. Already on Sunday August 7th, enthusiastic observers on the Klausen pass and in Zermatt, were confident of having seen the Professor's gondola hovering in the skies. From the latter place, detailed descriptions of its progress in the air were sent to the press. In face of the definite statements of these observers, scientists have now looked into the allegations, and whilst one of them is satisfied by describing the phenomenon as a meteor, another is confident that the observers at Zermatt have gazed upon the planet "Venus" in broad daylight (see N.Z.Z. August 10th).

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

During the seven months to the end of June last, the City has spent no less than seven million francs to alleviate unemployment.

* * *

In consequence of suburbs of Zurich having been taken over by the City fathers, a large num-

ber of street names have been found to exist already in other parts of the town. In one commune alone — Oerlikon — no less than 47 street names have to be changed. The inhabitants have been called upon by the authorities to make suitable suggestions.

BERNE.

The prevailing depression is illustrated in the accounts of the canton Berne which closed with a deficit of over three million francs. The central administration is making a close investigation into the financial position of the 497 communes with a view to reorganise the whole of the fiscal system.

LUCERNE.

Elaborate preparations are being made for celebrating the sixth centenary of Lucerne's entry into the Swiss Confederation. Federal Councillor Motta will deliver the official address on September 11th.

URI.

Thunderstorms with torrential rain visited several districts of the canton during last weekend. The road between Brunnen and Gersau became impassable being covered with about five foot debris which the overflowing "Fallenbach" had deposited.

* * *

A serious accident happened last Sunday morning on the Gotthard pass when a large car with five persons missed the road border near the Brüggeloch and somersaulted over the bank. Wilhelm Bachmann of Tablat (St. Gall), age 37, was killed on the spot while the other four occupants escaped with minor injuries.

BASLE.

Dr. Traugott Gehring, formerly secretary of the Basle Chamber of Commerce, died at the age of 73. He was a well-known economist and member of the International Institute of Statistics.

SOLOTHURN.

An escaped inmate from the lunatic asylum at Königfelden was responsible for a brutal crime of which the 18 year old Frieda Kyburz of Erlinsbach was the victim; she was together with two other girl workers on her way to the Bally shoe factory one early morning, when all three were attacked by an unknown man. Her two companions were able to run away and inform the police.

AARAU.

A local school teacher, Victor Lienhard in Buchs, was drowned in the Aare. He took eleven of his pupils bathing near the junction of the canal of the Arau chocolate factory. None of the party could swim properly. The teacher walking out too far was seized by a strong current and disappeared before help could be secured.

* * *

The local council of Unterkulm has had the happy idea of sending to the American President whose family originated from their district, a collection of the latest aerial photos. The American Legation in Berne has now, on behalf of President Hoover, gratefully acknowledged receipt of this collection, confirming that Mr. Hoover's ancestors resided in Kulm, and conveying the President's good wishes to the council for being privileged to administrate such a charming countryside.

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.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Ehre, dem Ehre gebuert!

CHRISTIAN KUNZLE, Birmingham.

Christian Kunzle has built up a wonderful business. His chocolates are famous, not only in England, but also abroad. His model factory at Birmingham is run on strictly Christian lines, by which I mean that his employees all form one vast family, with their chief as their revered head.

Going round this marvellous factory, one meets smiles everywhere. Smiles from mostly very pretty girls, looking sweeter perhaps, because they are attired in white.

The impression one takes away from these scrupulously clean and sweet smelling workshops — I almost wrote play-rooms! — is one of industrial happiness achieved, of employees being well looked after, well cared for in every respect, so that the luscious products they send out into all corners of the country cannot be but sweet and appetising. And, in case you have not done so, try them and find out for yourself!

However, this is not meant to be an advertisement for Kunzle's chocolates.

Who is this man who has built up such a wonderful business and runs it on such lines that any welfare worker would like to model all other factories accordingly?

Christian Kunzle hails from Davos. His wife from the Toggenburg. The two seem to make an ideal combination of that forceful, hard-headed character which is yet quick to seize opportunities which we meet in the Grisons and the staunch, milder, but steeped in Zwingli-qualities mind of the lovely Toggenburg.

In his talk and in his writings, Kunzle likes to refresh his memory by referring to old biblical sayings. He likes to keep Zwingli as his spiritual hero vividly before his mind and, what is more important, he endeavours to live up to the teachings of his hero.

When it comes to action, Kunzle instances the first three Swiss Confederates. To hear him explain the magical words "die drei Eidgenossen" alone is to obtain a true key to his character. He does not explain the words only, he means them. For him, the deeds performed by his heroes are deeds not to be mentioned at patriotic gatherings only, but deeds which it is incumbent upon all of us to try and do again. In other words, just as the three first confederates liberated or at least gave the signal for their liberation, the original Cantons of our beloved country, so Kunzle thinks that it is up to all of us, each in his sphere, to work towards the liberation of mankind from the various ills which beset it.

And so, hailing from Davos and knowing the curative powers of Davos air and Davos sun, Kunzle, as most of us know by now, started by sending out ailing workpeople from his own factory to recuperate and to get better at Davos. The results achieved were so satisfactory that early this year, when Kunzle was elected to the presidential chair of the Birmingham Children's Hospital, he extended an invitation to the Hospital to send out a party of ailing children, at his own expense, shared by his work-people, to Davos, there to try and find health.

And this is where we Swiss Compatriots of Christian Kunzle say "Honour to whom Honour is due!"

The experiment has already proved a success. How much so, you will find in the article from the Birmingham Evening Despatch of August 8th printed below:

Success at Davos.

"The Swiss extension of the Children's Hospital has been a magnificent success from every point of view."

These words, used by no less an authority than Professor L. G. Parsons, Senior Physician at the Birmingham Children's Hospital, will be read with great satisfaction by the people of the Midlands — and by readers of this newspaper in particular.

When it was first decided to accept Mr. Christian Kunzle's generous offer to place his chateau at Davos at the disposal of the hospital, it was realised that the whole great venture must be regarded in the light of an experiment.