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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

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 Diggelmann 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 wardens 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 Gothard pass when a large car with five persons missed the road border near the Brüggloch 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 Königsfelden 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.

AARGAU.

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 Aarau 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.

The doctors were hopeful, even confident, that satisfactory results would be achieved, but time alone could show whether such confidence was justified.

And now, within less than three months, Professor Parsons is able to report that he is delighted with the condition of the children:—

"Their chest conditions have completely cleared up; all have put on weight and have the appearance of robust health and are extremely happy."

Of the thirty children who went over to Davos in June, nine are now recommended for discharge — which means that years of ill-health have been banished by a few weeks in the wonderful Alpine climate.

Children's Help.

The particular interest felt by our readers is due to the fact that five of the first party of children are patients adopted by the NigNog Ring. This number will probably be brought up to ten when the second party goes over on 25 August.

Not only the NigNogs but their parents and adult friends are delighted to know that an experiment in which they have played so big a part has achieved such magnificent success.

There is one other memorable phrase in Professor Parsons' reports:—

"The behaviour of the children is commented on as something of which the British nation might be proud."

These little people, invalids though they may be, are ambassadors: their very presence in Switzerland cements the friendship between two nations.

They are bringing away the health they so badly need: they are leaving behind friendliness and goodwill. A fair exchange.

The above article ends with the words "A fair exchange." That is precisely the larger idea which is in Christian Kunzle's mind. These parties of ailing children, and adults, might be extended. More and more sick people might be made to benefit by them. The whole idea lends itself to a scheme of gigantic international proportions, a sort of exchange of prisoners, as was done during the war through the good offices of the *Red Cross*. But, this time, not of prisoners of war, but of those imprisoned by ill-health.

The interchange, between the various nations, of their "health-prisoners" for which, naturally, not only Davos, but all health resorts in all countries would be utilised — funnily enough, but as everyone knows, even Davos people benefit by a change of air and climatical conditions — could only be done on an international basis, but who is there to doubt that, in the long run, it would not only benefit the individuals in question, but would be economical from a strictly business point of view?

However, we will not go further into this problem to-day. My purpose to-day is to offer to Mr. Kunzle our heartfelt congratulations on a success achieved. A success in which Kunzle himself never doubted for a moment, but which, nevertheless is worthy of recording, because, it opens a glorious vista.

Alpine Flowers Tour.

It will come as a pleasant surprise to many of our readers to learn that, there is in this country, a Society whose members are interested especially in *Alpine Flowers*, and that the membership of this enthusiastic family numbers not less than 7,000! I am sure that most of the admirers of alpine flowers will wish, sooner rather than later, to go and see the natural home of their pets and, according to the *Yorkshire Post* of August 9th, this is rendered more easy:

Amateur gardeners could hardly find a pleasanter object for a foreign tour than the pursuit of Alpine flowers. A special tour to the Bernese Oberland was successfully carried out in June, and this week another party started for the Rhaetian Alps. The leader will be Dr. Hugh Rogers-Smith, who also led the party in June. He is honorary secretary of the Alpine Garden Society, which now has over 7,000 members and has held four flower shows of its own this year.

The fortnight's tour, which is not confined to members, will include visits to the Heental, the national park at Ofenberg, the Sextal and the Cavlocia See. The Heental, at a height of 7,000 feet, is perhaps the richest in Alpine flora of all the Swiss valleys. It is particularly famous for its primulas, which develop a marked degree of natural hybridisation, and for its cushion-plants. The party will be on the look-out for notable finds of the June trip, such as *Ranunculus parnassifolius*, *Viola cinesia*, *Anemone narcissiflora*, and *Cypripedium calceolus*; while the humbler but better known *edelweiss* is also in flower now.

It came as a slight shock to me to have our *edelweiss* called the humbler flower! But then, and of course, we reckon the beauty of the *Edelweiss* to consist, to a large extent, in the perils

associated with the search for it, high up, near some snowy, icy peak.

Apart from the usual holiday articles, Switzerland is well represented in the British Press just now. We have daily paragraphs about Prof. Piccard and his forthcoming ascent into the Stratosphere and good luck to him! and we have, or had lately, a number of articles dealing with the recent Alpine Motor Trials, in which English Cars have done exceedingly well. Writes the *Glasgow Herald*, 9th inst.

A Pot-Pourri of Ideas.

The Alpine trial, as I write this, has progressed as far as St. Moritz. So far Britain, to use a much hackneyed phrase, has swept the board. The Stelvio pass, which is on the route to St. Moritz, proved an exclusive British triumph. This pass, which is the highest road in Europe (it is no less than 9,000 feet high, and is looked on with awe by motorists) had no deterrent effect on the British contingent. In fact, not content with "managing up" this Alpine terror, Donald Healey roared up the 16 odd miles with its 44 hair-pins in the astounding time of 23 mins. 43 secs. Phew! What Going! Needless to say he broke the record for the Stelvio climb, which was previously held by a Bugatti. And this with a car with about 40,000 miles of competition work to its credit! In all the other classes, British cars proved supreme in this test. W. Cooper (Lagonda), A. Gripper (Fraser-Nash), and Jack Hobbs (Riley) were the successful drivers. Jack Hobbs in his Riley also broke the class record for the climb.

Up to the present the Talbots are being almost taken for granted as the team prize-winners in their class, and in the under 1,100 c.c. class the Rileys are holding the same position. Out of the 99 starters 59 have so far lost no marks, and of this number no less than 35 are British cars. The nine Rileys entered have so far not a stain on their character. On the first day, Mr. Hardgreaves in his Alvis had trouble with his petrol flow and, had for a distance to lie on the running board and pour petrol into his carburettor, while his passenger drove. The same day Mrs. Gripper had to "pack-up" as her Wolsely was giving trouble. As a contrast Miss Margaret Allan, the young Scots' woman who won the ladies' prize in the Scottish Rally, has earned the praise of all the trial competitors with her nothing less than astonishing display at the wheel of her Wolsely.

Then we have Mr. E. RYCHNER from Berne. Now our Bernese friends, as we all know, are very astute and not at all *Sloaz*. They believe in keeping one eye wide open, so as not to miss the main chance, and they have, I think, all duly learnt and inwardly digested the old saying "pas d'argent, pas de Suisse." Hence, our Mr. E. Rychner. He thought that the Birmingham Daily Mail was rather simple. Perhaps even benevolent. Perhaps inspired by lofty ideals, eager, nay keen and avid to help to right the ills of this sorry World. Said Mr. E. Rychner to himself "well, here is my chance, that paper, surely, will succumb to my suggestions and, as the English are known to be great for all sorts of competitions and easy-money-for-nothing-games — vide crossword, football, horse-racing and other contests open in nearly all the British Papers — they will, surely, also start a competition in which I, Mr. E. Rychner, am bound to win first prize." No sooner said or thought, than done, and forthwith he writes in to our esteemed contemporary at Birmingham and tells them all about it. But, alas! In spite of its perverted inclination towards favouring Tariff Reform — they did, at least until they actually got it, but it is a moot question, whether they still do now that they have had it for some time! — Birmingham has some sense and some wit, and Mr. E. Rychner's idea has been riddled with ridicule, to judge from the following article from the Birmingham Daily Mail, of August 8th:

Hurrah!

There is good news from Switzerland — the best of news, in fact. No, it is not from Geneva, but from Berne. A Mr. E. Rychner writes to assure us that —

The problem of the unemployed is solved. Solved for the whole world. You will probably receive this information sceptically. However, it is a fact.

So the present bad and discreditable economical situation could be remedied, for the two problems closely connected.

It is possible that in from one to two or three years all the unemployed in the world, those who want work, can again take their places in the economical world. The plan can be carried out at once; it has positive results directly on a large scale, therefore soon visible. It is thorough, with consequences which will last for a generation.

The solution is not easy to find. It has, as far as I know, till to-day been proposed by nobody in the whole world.

Will you please consider my to-day's communication absolutely seriously. The solution mentioned is new and unknown, because it was not indicated either by the press or in Geneva. All over the world the greatest specialists and chief leaders in political economy and Socialism are seeking, without having arrived at the solution. This is practical, not theoretical. It is the result of great experience, from knowledge of the chief causes.

You will agree with me that in the present situation of the world one must not only discuss, but also act, if a practical way can be indicated out of the present crisis.

The press has the possibility of doing very much in associating the authorities, the political economy societies for working together and drawing their attention to perhaps the only way leading out of the present misery.

Unfortunately there is a "catch" in it — there always is. Mr. Rychner adds —

I wish to ask the press to take up the matter as it deserves and, together with the chiefs of the Government, the political economy societies, etc., to offer a prize for a suitable solution. Good work deserves an equivalent reward. At the present time millions are lost for the people and the State because nobody knows what should be done.

If we wait until there is a competition the crisis will go on indefinitely, since there are sure to be millions of competitors, each with an infallible scheme. Could not some benevolent millionaire make Mr. Rychner a suitable offer for his secret, or, seeing the importance of the matter, should not the Swiss Government take appropriate steps to force him to disclose for the good of humanity?

I am afraid, Mr. E. Rychner must try again. Meanwhile he would perhaps like to let us into the secret, seeing that we too are frightfully anxious to rid the World of some of its worst ills.

FEUERZEICHEN.

Der Höhenfeuer Altarkerken
Sind rings entflammt, Ihr Glutenschein
Schenkt den vom Geist berührten Herzen
Des Glaubens reinen Becher ein.
Wenn sich die Firne rosig färben,
Hoch über dunkler Täler Not,
Erschliesst sich bei des Tages Sterben
Der Feuerblume strahlend Rot.
Aus tiefer Wurzeln Schlaf erwacht,
Erblüht sie zu des Bundes Preise
Einmal nur in des Jahres Kreise
Wie eine Königin der Nacht.

Rudolf Nussbaum.

SOME STATISTICS!

The League of Nations Year Book just published states that there are 2,012,000,800 human beings now living in the world. During the year under review the population has increased by about 20 million. Europe, for the first time, passes the half-billion mark, showing a total of 506 million or eight million more than in the preceding year.

On the other hand, figures which have recently appeared in the daily press, seem to show that the birth rate is dropping generally. This is especially the case in the U.S.A. where the decrease in some of the big cities is striking (Boston 22%, Detroit 17%, etc.). The loss of population in Germany is stated to be 10%.

ANGLO-SWISS TREATY.

Ratifications have been exchanged of the agreement between Britain and Switzerland for reciprocal exemption from taxation on profits or gains arising through an agency. The avoidance of double taxation is thus facilitated. The agreement dates back to the assessment year commencing 6th April, 1930.

In a White Paper issued by H.M. Stationery Office details are given of the existing taxes in Switzerland from which exemption is given by the agreement.

Any property which is owned and employed in Switzerland by a person resident in the United Kingdom for the purpose of making profits or gains is exempted from all direct taxes on property or capital, whether imposed by the Confederation, the Cantons or the Communes.

The profits or gains in question are any profits or gains arising, whether directly or indirectly, through an agency in Switzerland to a person who is resident. An exception is made if the profits arise from the sale of goods from a stock in Switzerland; or accrue directly or indirectly through any branch or management in Switzerland or through an agency in Switzerland where the agent has and habitually exercises a general authority to negotiate and conclude contracts.

The agreement may be denounced at any time upon six months' notice being given by one contracting party to the other.