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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS



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FEDERAL.

SWISS DIPLOMAT'S 70th BIRTHDAY.

M. Georges Wagnière, Swiss Minister in Rome, has celebrated his 70th birthday. — M. Wagnière, was born in Fey (Ct. Vaud) in 1862, and studied law at the Universities of Lausanne, Leipzig and Pisa; on conclusion of his studies he entered the Federal Dept. of Justice, and later on became Vice-Chancellor of the Confederation.

On his appointment of Editor of the "Journal de Genève," he quitted the Civil Service, and until 1918 was one of the most brilliant members of the Journalistic profession, he was also President of the Swiss Press Association.

In 1918 the Federal Council elected him for the post of Minister in Rome, which appointment he held for the last 14 years; during this time he has made a name in the diplomatic circles of Rome. Relations between Italy and Switzerland encountered various difficult problems, but owing to his great tact and clever foresight he was able to settle many a thorny problem in a beneficial way for our country.

We too, wish this eminent diplomat many happy returns of the day.

ISABELLA KAISER MONUMENT.

A committee has been formed in order to collect subscriptions for erecting a monument to this popular Swiss writer.

Hans von Matt, the well-known sculptor in Stans has been commissioned to submit a model. The monument will be erected at Beckenried, where Isabella Kaiser resided, and the costs of same are estimated between 6-7,000 frs.

SWISS MILITARY MANOEUVRES.

The autumn manoeuvres of the 6th division will be held early next month somewhere between St. Gallen and Frauenfeld. The 6th division will be under the command of division commander Colonel Lardelli, the opposing forces will be led by Colonel de Muralt, the new commander of the 5th division.

AERIAL ST. BERNARDS.

An agreement has been reached between the Alpine Club and the Swiss Authorities whereby aeroplanes will be at the disposal of search-parties for Alpine accidents or lost mountaineers. When a request for help arrives, the chief of the Salvage Service of the Swiss Alpine Club at Baden will communicate with one of three aerodromes — Lausanne, Zürich (Dübendorf), or Thun, — and from whichever is nearest the scene of the accident an aeroplane will set out to search for the lost or injured Alpinists.

The aeroplane will first fly over the district to locate the object of the search, to which provisions, ropes and other salvage materials will be dropped. The exact spot will then be marked on a map and this will be dropped at the nearest salvage post or on whatever ground-rescue parties may already be engaged in the search.

ANGLO-SWISS ALUMINIUM TRADE ALLIANCE.

Two firms engaged in the aluminium ware and utensils industry — Corfield, Limited, of Merton Abbey, Surrey, and Sigg, Limited, of Frauenfeld, Switzerland — have decided to pool their resources in Great Britain. This, it is stated, is a direct result of tariffs. Production for the British market, which formerly took place in Switzerland, will now be transferred to the Corfield works. To deal with the new organization a new company, Corfield-Sigg, Limited, has been formed. The combined capital of the two operating companies exceeds £700,000.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Thousands of Professor Piccard's Swiss compatriots cheering wildly lined the route when the hero of the stratosphere returned by motor-car to Zurich on Tuesday from Lake Garda.

At every town and small village the Professor, who was accompanied by his wife, was held up by cheering admirers who mobbed his car.

At Faido, near St. Gothard, the triumphal procession, including two lorries carrying the hull and gondola of the balloon, was stopped while Mme. Piccard was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

In his official report to the Belgian National Foundation for Scientific Research Professor Piccard says that several instruments were missing after the landing. It is believed they were taken away as souvenirs by the crowd.

Professor Piccard is likely to be nominated for the Nobel prize of physics.

* * *

The town of Zürich has spent during the period of 1st December 1931 to June 30th 1932, an amount of seven million francs for assisting its unemployed.

* * *

An International Congress for consulting engineers will be held at Zurich between the 7th and 10th September; the deliberations will take place at the Technical University, and will be held in French, German and English. General Secretary of the congress is Engineer Ad. M. Hug. (Thalwil).

BERNE.

The Eiger, one of the most difficult peaks of the Bernese Alps, has been climbed for the first time by its most difficult face, the north face, which has long been regarded as an impossible climb.

The ascent was made by Dr. Lauper, of Zurich, and Herr Alfred Zuercher, of St. Gall, both members of the Alpine Club, who were accompanied by two guides, Joseph Knubel and Alexander Craven.

They left Kleine Scheidegg at 2 a.m. and, after climbing the almost perpendicular wall, 6,000 ft. high, reached the peak at 5 p.m. They made a very rapid descent, returning to their hotel at 9.15 p.m.

This new conquest of the Eiger, which is 13,038 ft. high, follows closely upon the remarkable climbing feat accomplished last week by an English girl, Miss Howard, who was the first woman to succeed in reaching the peak by the difficult route via the Mittellegi Ledge, first climbed in 1921 by the Japanese climber, Yuko Maki.

It might interest our readers to know, that Mr. Zürcher is well-known in the London Colony, having been for many years, a staunch supporter of the City Swiss Club Banquets, and we most heartily congratulate him on his latest mountaineering feat.

* * *

Prof. Dr. Fritz Steinmann, a well-known surgeon and lecturer at the University in Berne has died at the age of 60.

* * *

M. J. J. Rebmann, a former National Councillor and wellknown cattle breeder, has died at Erlenbach (i Simmental) at the age of 86.

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:

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

Telephone: PADDINGTON 0701.

LUCERNE.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Richard Wagner and in recognition of the great composer's many years' association with the town of Lucerne, to which he often referred as the place of his most happy memories, Tribschen, the old Wagner house, will be opened early in the coming year as a national memorial.

With the help of his many admirers and by friends who still survive him, the property which includes some acres of delightful lawns and gardens that overlook the lake, has been purchased by the town for the sum of 350,000 Swiss francs (about the equivalent to-day of £19,000). It is proposed to reconstitute the house and its interior, as far as may be possible, in the style of the period when Wagner occupied it, and to regain the atmosphere with which it was then surrounded.

Interesting Collection.

His favourite piano, upon which the "Meistersingers," "Siegfried," and other of his famous operas were composed while he lived in Lucerne, will, through the kindness of Mrs. Siegfried Wagner, reoccupy its former corner; records of his initial efforts and trial scores, will form an interesting collection, while photographs of Nietzsche, of whom he was a great admirer, Liszt, his father-in-law, Ludwig II., King of Bavaria, and other of the many friends who visited him in his lake-side villa, will decorate the walls.

In the little Protestant church at Lucerne that adjoins the Schweizerhof Quay, he married Cosima after her divorce from Hans von Bülow, and here Siegfried, their only son, was born on June 6, 1869.

During his six years' residence, from 1865 to the spring of 1872, Wagner, with his velvet coat and artist's beret, accompanied on his rambles by his somewhat ferocious-looking dog, was a well-known figure in Lucerne. Evening often found him in company with his friends at the Bier Halle of the Dubeli, and his table there is to-day pointed out to visitors.

* * *

From Felsberg comes the news of the death of Colonel Pietzker, who for many years belonged to the Instruction corps of the Swiss army.

FRIBOURG.

During a heavy storm one of the towers of the Chateau Vidy in the community of Barbèche was struck, causing great damage.

AARGAU.

Federal Judge, Dr. Albert Ursprung has, celebrated his 70th birthday, he was born in 1862 at Ueken, and studied law at the Universities of Bale and Munich. At the early age of 24 he entered the Grand Council, and in 1890 he entered Parliament. (National Council). In 1902 he was elected a member of the supreme court over which he presided in 1918-19. In earlier years he obtained the rank of an Infantry Colonel. The town of Zurzach has bestowed the freedom of the city on him, and he is a doctor honoris causa of the Basle University.

* * *

Burglars entered the office of the Hotel Bahnhof at Baden, and carried away the safe which contained about a thousand francs. On trying to forcibly open it in a neighbouring field they were caught and arrested. All three burglars are of Polish nationality.

APPENZELL.

Willi Bosshardt from Oerlikon, on climbing the Säntis, fell into a crevasse, he was rescued and brought to Appenzell, his injuries are very serious and may prove fatal.

ST. GALLEN.

The paddle steamer "Helvetia" belonging to the Swiss Federal Railways will be put out of service, she is the oldest boat of the "Dampbootverwaltung" in Romanshorn, having been built in 1887 by the firm of Escher, Wyss & Cie at Zurich. For the time being this steamer will not be replaced.

VALAIS.

A party of climbers and guides which reached the summit of the Matterhorn, 14,780 ft. above sea level, was astonished to find a solitary Alpinist sitting on the top. He said that his name was Metzger, and that he had scaled the mountain alone. He refused the guides' offer that he should join up on their rope for the perilous descent, and he made his way down alone to Zermatt, six miles away.