

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1932)

**Heft:** 578

**Artikel:** Des précisions du colonel Lederrey au sujet de l'intervention de la troupe

**Autor:** [s.n.]

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696103>

#### Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 13.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# The Swiss Observer

POUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone : CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 12—No. 578

LONDON, NOVEMBER 19, 1932.

PRICE 3d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM	{	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	36
AND COLONIES	{	6 " " 26 "	66
12 "	"	62 "	12-
SWITZERLAND	{	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Fr. 7.50
12 "	"	62 "	14-

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto  
Basle V 5718).



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

## FEDERAL.

### RIOTS AT GENEVA.

The serious riots which occurred on the 9th of this month at Geneva had its source in a meeting of the National Union, held to denounce from the tribune two notorious socialist leaders, named Leon Nicole, the editor of the socialist organ "Le Travail," and National Councillor Dicker. No one can blame the Conseil d'Etat for granting leave to a reactionary party to hold a public meeting in a public hall. The socialist, who asked for its suppression, forgot their own repeated clamours for free speech. During the meeting, a mob assembled outside the Hall and protest meetings were improvised at corners of several adjacent streets, across some of which the police had fixed chain barriers that stopped all traffic.

National Councillor Nicole himself addressed one of these meetings and, worked up to a fury at the charges levelled against him, declared that the moment of revolution had arrived — not merely a Swiss or Genevese revolution, but a world-wide revolution. He finished his harangue by exclaiming: "Comrades, follow the orders which will be given you in the streets. Hold the streets!" The mob began singing the "Internationale" and hurling abusive remarks at the police. Scuffles took place in which some of the gendarmes were injured, encouraged by their initial "success" against the police, the mob became more violent. Anticipating serious trouble the President of the State Council telephoned to the military for assistance. Earlier in the day a company of "Mitrailleur" recruits had been drafted into Geneva in anticipation of disorders, they were divided into several detachments. Some of them were surrounded by the mob and disarmed. The demonstrators seized and broke their rifles and knocked off their helmets, some had pepper thrown in their faces, and several recruits were seriously injured. More soldiers were called out armed with Lewis guns. The crowd was warned by an officer "Disperse or we shall fire," as no heed was taken the soldiers opened fire with the result that 13 people were killed and between 60 and 70 injured.

The names of the killed are: E. Quillet, Gabriel Loup, Hans Brugger, Oscar Maurer, T. Larderaz, Perrenoud, Edmond Junod, Emile Henri, Francis Clerc, Alphonse Kolly, Emile Guignet, Henri Fürst, Melchior Allemand.

A protest strike of twenty-four hours decided on by the trade unions was universally observed, some of the strikers cut the trolley cords at several places and stopped the trams. In order to prevent any further troubles, the State Council has mobilised the 3rd regiment and the "Landwehr" battalion 103.

M. Léon Nicole, has been arrested on a charge of inciting the mob to resist the military forces. He was refused bail.

Volaisan troops are drafted into Geneva.

Latest news: Calm has been restored and troops disbanded.

### SWISS MINISTER IN CHINA.

Monsieur Etienne Lardy has been appointed Swiss Minister in China. M. Lardy was formerly General Consul.

### TRADE OF SWITZERLAND.

Imports into Switzerland in October increased 7,800,000f. to 143,900,000f., and exports increased 4,900,000f. to 68,400,000f. The export increase consists chiefly of chemical goods, watches, cotton goods and clothing. The national Bank still holds over 2,000,000,000f. of gold reserves. The new tariff reductions and greater exchange facilities agreed with Germany promise further progress towards recovery.

## PROFESSOR MAX HUBER HONOURED.

Professor Max Huber, late President of the International Court of Justice at the Hague has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Uppsala (Sweden).

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

Eleven terrified children who ran wildly into a blazing building to hide in corners and underneath beds, lost their lives at Wädenswil.

The fire broke out in a children's home, where the inmates are abnormal mentally and physically, and many of them helpless invalids.

The main building of the home, in which 100 children were housed, caught fire in the early morning while they were still asleep.

All the children, whose ages range from about six to fourteen, were led out to safety by the staff and the firemen.

They were all in a state of panic, however, and while the firemen were still fighting the flames about a dozen of them, all girls, slipped away unobserved and ran madly into the blazing building.

There they hid in different rooms, behind wardrobes and cupboards, terrified by the flames.

Some of them cowered underneath beds on which the bedclothes were ablaze.

Eleven bodies had been recovered by to-night, but one child is still missing.

The home was a private institution in the charge of an old married couple.

\* \* \*

The firm of Hug & Co., Music publishers at Zurich has celebrated its 125th Jubilee. The firm was founded in 1807 by Pastor Jakob Christoph Hug and his brother Caspar Hug.

### BERNE.

The death is reported of Dr. h. c. F. Fankhauser a former federal "Forstinspector."

### ST. GALLEN.

M. Heinrich Anderegg, late Manager of the Vereinigten Webereien Sernftal and Azmoos has died at Thal at the age of 81.

### VAUD.

The State Council of the Canton of Vaud ordered the mobilisation of three squadrons of cavalry near Lausanne, sections of which have been drafted into Geneva. The same Council, acting in conjunction with the Municipality of Lausanne, has decided to concentrate the police force and the gendarmerie into a single force under the command of a colonel. The Council has also suppressed the Communist newspaper, "Le Drapeau Rouge."

\* \* \*

Communists threw a bomb at the Lausanne town hall. Five persons were injured.

## DES PRECISIONS DU COLONEL LEDERREY

### AU SUJET DE L'INTERVENTION DE LA TRouPE.

Le colonel Lederrey, commandant de l'école de recrues IV/1, a reçu, vendredi matin, à la caserne, les représentants de la presse, afin de leur fournir quelques précisions relatives aux événements de mercredi et spécialement aux conditions dans lesquelles s'est produite l'intervention de la troupe.

Tous les journaux quotidiens de Genève, à l'exception du "Travail," étaient représentés à cette entrevue, à laquelle assistait également le major Kraft, de Lausanne, auditeur de la 1re division, chargé d'un rapport complet par le département militaire fédéral. Le colonel Lederrey était entouré des officiers de son état-major.

Un premier point a été abordé: celui des bruits qui ont couru en ville et selon lesquels des

soldats seraient actuellement au cachot pour refus d'obéissance. Cette rumeur ne correspond à aucune réalité. Pas un seul homme n'est puni en ce moment. Au contraire, la discipline est excellente à la caserne. Il n'est pas vrai non plus qu'un soldat ait déserté. Enfin, il est inexact qu'un soldat blessé se trouve dans un état désespéré. Le cas le plus grave est un cas de fracture du fémur, qui ne met pas en danger la vie du blessé.

Le colonel Lederrey a mis en relief un fait d'une extrême importance pour l'enquête.

On sait que la 1re compagnie avait été envoyée d'abord sur le lieu des désordres. Puis, comme du renfort était demandé, la 3e compagnie, cantonnée dans l'école du quai Charles-Page, fut alertée à son tour. Or, au moment où elle se préparait à partir, moment qui coïncidait à deux ou trois minutes près avec la fusillade devant le Palais des Expositions, des coups de feu partirent d'un toit sur la troupe, sans d'ailleurs faire de victime. Ce point est d'une réelle importance, puisqu'il établit le dessin de certains individus de faire dégénérer la manifestation en bagarre sanglante.

On a remarqué aussi les singuliers agissements d'un automobiliste et d'un motocycliste, qui se sont littéralement jetés, avec leurs machines, sur les hommes de la 3e compagnie, séparant les sections l'une de l'autre, comme par accident, mais d'une manière qui a paru suspecte.

Au départ de Lausanne, le colonel Lederrey a rappelé à la troupe les prescriptions des règlements militaires relatifs aux interventions en cas de désordres. Selon les règlements, lorsque la troupe est attaquée, sérieusement menacée ou gênée dans son action, elle a le droit de se servir de ses armes. L'ordre doit être donné par les chefs. L'emploi des armes sera précédé d'une sommation, répétée si possible deux fois, à moins que les agresseurs n'en laissent pas le temps.

En face d'une foule déchaînée, le chef fait exécuter un signal par le trompette, ou cherche, par tout autre moyen, à se faire entendre. Les armes sont chargées sur ordre. Elles ne l'étaient pas, l'autre soir, avant le tir, si bien que ceux des manifestants qui se sont emparés des fusils de soldats qu'ils avaient désarmés, n'ont pu en faire eux-mêmes usage.

Les officiers sont très affirmatifs sur le fait que la sommation a eu lieu. La foule était si dense que l'avertissement peut n'avoir pas été entendu de partout. Mais de nombreux témoins l'ont entendu. Ce fut du reste le cas de l'anarchiste Tronchet qui, aussitôt, se coucha sous une automobile.

Les officiers qui étaient sur place mercredi soir sont absolument convaincus que l'attaque contre la troupe était concertée et même soigneusement organisée. Les perturbateurs agissaient par équipes de trois pour chaque soldat: le premier lançait du poivre dans les yeux; le deuxième relevait le casque par derrière de façon à en couvrir le visage; le troisième assenait un coup de matraque sur la nuque. Contrairement à ce qui a été dit, aucun soldat ne s'est dessaisi de son fusil volontairement. Les fusils ont été arrachés. Lorsque les hommes de la 1re section de la 1re compagnie ont été accusés au Palais des expositions et que leur situation devint tout à fait critique, l'ordre fut donné de charger les armes. Le geste des tireurs chargeant leur fusil était très visible. Un soldat et un caporal déclarent, de la façon la plus catégorique, qu'à ce moment-là, avant, par conséquent, que l'ordre de tirer eût été donné, un civil a sorti un revolver de sa poche et a fait feu dans la direction de la troupe. Ce caporal et ce soldat ont répété leur déclaration formelle devant nous.

Il semble établi aussi que lorsque la troupe a ouvert le feu, les manifestants ont continué d'avancer, croyant qu'on tirait à blanc. Ils n'ont reculé qu'à la vue des blessés. Le major Perret et le 1er lieutenant Burnat sont très affirmatifs sur ce point. Ceci montre combien le tir à blanc aurait été inefficace.

Il a été perdu dans la bagarre 7 casques, 9 fusils, 4 mousquets, 18 baïonnettes, 2 pistolets d'officiers, 1 fusil-mitrailleur (qui a été rapporté plus tard à la gendarmerie et qui avait été abîmé, de toute évidence par quelqu'un qui en connaissait le maniement). Il manque encore 3 fusils, 1 mousquet, 11 baïonnettes et 3 casques.

112 cartouches ont été tirées avec fusils, et, par un seul fusil-mitrailleur, 30 cartouches,

Le colonel Lederrey a répondu avec complaisance à toutes les questions qui lui ont été posées

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th  
for the  
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL  
at the  
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

sur divers points de détail. Il a démontré, notamment, comment l'emploi des armes blanches n'était pas possible dans de telles circonstances.

L'emploi des hydrants, qui nécessite une préparation, l'existence de bouches à eau sur place en suffisance et l'emploi de "courses," difficiles à déployer au milieu d'une foule hostile, ne pouvait pas être envisagé de l'avantage même des officiers de police.

La troupe a fait tout son devoir, mercredi soir. Assurément, ce devoir était pénible et n'a pas été assumé de gaieté de cœur. Mais sans son intervention, l'émeute n'aurait pas pu être enravée.

Comme nous l'avons dit plus haut, le major Kraft est chargé de dresser un rapport complet pour le département militaire fédéral. Les personnes qui auraient des renseignements précis à lui fournir sur la manifestation à partir du moment où la troupe intervint, sont invitées à lui en donner connaissance. Ajoutons que c'est à la demande du colonel Lederrey lui-même que le major Kraft a été chargé de cette mission.

Dans la salle à manger des officiers, nous avons pu voir armes et casques détériorés ou brisés par des manifestants. Le casque du lieutenant Burnat, entre autres, n'est plus qu'une écoumoue.

Tels sont les principaux faits sur lesquels le commandant de l'école de recrues a jugé utile de renseigner l'opinion publique.

#### RAILWAYS LIKE GOATS.

By Graham Seton.

(Lieut.-Col. G. S. Hutchison, D.S.O., M.C.)

Of all the memories of Europe that come to my mind when I am in strange continents there is one that stands out for me as the supreme symbol of Man's conquest of Nature. During thousands of centuries Man has tamed one by one the natural forces opposed to him. One stronghold alone Nature retained — her vast mountains, compact of indomitable rock and covered with unsurmountable snows. Here in India the vast ranges of the Himalayas stand unconquered yet, though year by year men are wrestling more of their secrets. But the very inaccessibility of these Titan monsters, five miles high, heightens my wonder at the feats of the men who have not only climbed unscalable heights but actually built machines to run up and down their sides like mountain goats or to burrow through their rocky fastnesses like moles in a garden.

Consider the Jungfrau Railway, with its terminus far beyond the eternal snow line, 11,340 feet above the sea. Inaccessible until 30 years ago since the beginning of time — except to the mountain crows and a mere handful of expert mountaineers! And now men and women live in the comfortable hotel over the railway terminus all the year round; which during the summer hundreds of tourists step out of the hotels every day at Interlaken or Lauterbrunnen or Grindelwald and within an hour or two alight at the top of the world.

It is sixty years since the Swiss built the first mountain railway up the Rigi from Vitznau, and from then onwards Swiss engineers began to construct their rack-and-pinion railways in all the mountainous countries of the world. But the snow heights defied mankind. In 1893 the Wengernalp Railway was opened, linking lovely Lauterbrunnen Valley with Grindelwald. A few weeks later an engineer at Mürren described a puff of smoke from the toy train approaching Little Scheidegg in the far distance, below the mass of the Eiger. A sudden inspiration came to him — here must start a railway that would ascend to the Jungfrau through the Eiger and Mönch. He sketched a rough plan that same night. Nine years later the first train reached Jungfraujoch ...

In Solid Rock.

After leaving the station at the foot of the Eiger Glacier the electric train climbs into the Eiger. A mile and a half from the entrance a station with outlook galleries is blasted in the rock. Then the train crawls through a mile of mountain to Eismeer station, 1,000 feet higher. Out of the side of the vast mass of rock that forms the Eiger a little hole has been chipped to form a station and observation post. Peering out, one gets an eagle's-eye view of Nature at her most desolate — a wilderness of precipitous rocks, ice, snow, and crevasses.

Thence to the highest station in Europe on the snowy saddle that joins the Mönch to the Jungfrau and offers the most superb view of mountain heights ever unfolded before the plainsman. Thus the genius of man not only conquered physical obstacles — it brought the vision of a new beauty, the experience of a new exhilaration within the range of the ordinary man.

Now come with me to the other end of Switzerland to see another railway that has taken up Nature's challenge with even more dramatic defiance. If the Jungfrau Railway is the Eighth Wonder of the World, the Rhaetian Railway must surely rank as the Ninth.

You look at the things that are — and say Why?

I look at the things that never were — and say Why Not? (Bernard Shaw)

ARE YOU DESPATCHING YOUR GOODS to and from Switzerland and Italy

by the

SOUTHERN ROUTE, via Folkstone — Boulogne, and vice versa? If not, WHY NOT?

## WORLD TRANSPORT AGENCY LTD.

(Official Agents of the Southern Railway)

21, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3. Telephone ROYAL 2233 (6 lines)

and at : BASLE, Markthalle.

The only firm who run a regular service by the direct route. Also excellent services in other directions

Six thousand feet above the sea lies the remote region of the Engadine. Since the Romans conquered it, it remained for 19 centuries, by its sheer inaccessibility from the Swiss side, in a state of semi-isolation developing its own queer dialect, Romansch, still the language of its people. Then came the Swiss engineers from the north, driving the Rhaetian Railway dizzy over the gorges and into the bowels of the mountains, to emerge at last amid villages made famous by English winter sportsmen — Cresta and Celerina, Pontresina, St. Moritz, and the rest. I know no stretch of line in the world to compete for awesome beauty and magnificence with the Rhaetian line's progress through the territory of the Albula river.

Imagine some crazy engineer making a vow that nothing would stop him from driving a track for a railway train where Nature had driven a track for a river. And nothing did stop him, though he had to hollow out 40 tunnels and erect a score of viaducts. Above Thusis we enter the Schyn Gorge, a rugged, terrific ravine with the turbulent torrents of the Albula churning its way through broken rocks far, far below us. Tunnel follows viaduct, viaduct follows tunnel. We cross a bridge 130 feet high over a gorge and plunge for half a mile into the opened flank of a mountain and bit out a hole for its further progress...

We come to Bergün, lying 1,365 feet below Preda at a distance of  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles — a glorious bob-sleigh run in winter. The train travels  $\frac{7}{8}$  miles to cover this distance by a series of wiggles and loops. First forward, then a loop through a tunnel, forward again, a leap over a torrent by a long-legged viaduct. Then a straight run along the mountain side, another crossing of the Albula into a spiral tunnel by which we climb another 80 feet before again leaping the Albula. A wide, ascending loop, a corkscrew run through two tunnels, one above the other, twice over the river, and finally we reach Preda. After this it seems almost commonplace to record that the railway pierces a granite mountain — Piz Giumes, which is Romansch for Twins Peak — by a four-mile tunnel and emerges in the Upper Engadine valley.

None but a frenzied genius could have conceived such a railway — a fitting approach to the most beautiful inhabited mountain region in the world.

*Sheffield Weekly Dispatch....*

#### TEMPORARY IDLE DAYS IN MID-ATLANTIC ON BOARD THE "LIQUITANIA."

October 1932.

Dear Swiss Observer:

This is beginning to be an enjoyable trip. People are waking up and itch to become friendly. Little circles are forming up and soon we shall have a regular clan system. I am, of course, tremendously busy. There is not a minute to spare for trifles such as looking through my papers and working out details for my work in New York. That must wait, damn it! Nor is there time for reading. There is a library and I have brought books along. To blazes with them. Also writing is napo! It makes me smile to think that I had the effrontery to resolve upon one daily good deed. All washed overboard! I have no time.

I get up say at eight o'clock and clad in vest and shorts I repair to the gym where an instructor puts me with others, through the mill 'till my tummy is just a mass of awful aches, then a dip into the swimming pool rounded off with a fresh water shower. After that strategic retreat to bed for a short rest flavoured by a cup of tea. Now comes the dressing of the doll and imposing descent all dressed up and perfumed down to the restaurant. It takes about an hour to wade through this breakfast with fruit and all sorts of juices and oats and fish and eggs and meats and

whatnots, back to fruits at the end. One eats as much as one can or dares, and spends the rest of the time in a vain endeavour to mitigate the effects and accelerate the turnover. — Perfectly mad!

Now comes the serious business of the morning. There is deck tennis and ping pong. Both very strenuous if played seriously, and we are so serious about them that by noon I drift back to my room, where I have to change completely after, of course, having taken a bath. Then a cup of bovril and one looks for a diversion, be it the ocean, or some play or a slim ankle, or a transparently white throat. — Then comes luncheon. Here the same takes place as at breakfast except that alcohol enters upon the scene.

Stupified from the effects of the luncheon drugs, we lie about till we breathe more freely again and then while we begin to think about tea and sweets, we arrange either bridge parties or go to the official horse races, which are held daily in the garden lounge, and where money seems to be the least of objects. Or perhaps we go to the cinema which opens shortly after the crowds come back from the races. After that gym claims one's attention, the swimming pool gets another visit, the barber must be consulted about the state of one's beard and then the dressing for dinner calls for the day's effort. We emerge finally from all these trials maddened by thirst and tortured by the pangs of hunger. So down we go to the restaurant, square our shoulders, and with eyes down struggle manfully for a successful removal of the last traces of under-nourishment. After the last morsel we grope after truth to decide whether our state of inebriety demands the service of the lift or whether reasons dictated by the laws of self-preservation would indicate the advantage of a climb on foot. Hereafter the geographical question of the black coffee arises. This is a nice point! It is rich in possibilities.

The question of any serious work to be accomplished having been discarded long before breakfast, it remains now merely to finish the day in a fairly vertical position — when standing — so that the difference can be appreciated when a definitely recumbent position has to be adopted later owing to the peculiar construction of beds. We approach that last stage of comparative inactivity with grace and dignity. Talk flows easily and with fair lubrication, also a snack or two assists to renew worn tissues and dance or gambling games hold organised society together till midnight fairly hammers into us that there is a limit even with the most heroic and enduring.

We mumble our good wishes, tear our wet rags from us, sink into the bath and soon into oblivion in our beds. What blessed beds they are! The chap who invented these beds must have been a clever fellow. I wonder whether he does not beat Einstein. After all, if I make a bee-line for his invention I sort of get there and then there I am; but if I followed Einstein I would only relatively get there and I would call that rather unsatisfactory, especially since we feel so exhausted. On the other hand I begin to suspect strongly that we subconsciously rather hanker after jolly old Einstein, since after dinner everyone seems to feel that the shortest line between two points is certainly not the straight one.

Thus we spend our days, thus we carry the light of civilisation and the torch of good example to the farther edge. Pilgrim fathers! It took you 90 days and what did you endure?

We look over the rails and when we see some white osseous:

Oh, I say, what a bore! I must go down and put a bit more rouge on.

Yours exhausted,  
"X."

