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HOME NEWS



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FEDERAL.

ANOTHER SWISS BROADCASTING STATION.

For the completion of the "regional" broadcasting scheme for Switzerland the Swiss Administration of Telegraphs and Telephones has ordered a new Marconi transmitting station to be erected in the Italian part of Switzerland.

The regional transmitters for German Switzerland and French Switzerland are already in operation at Beromünster and Sottens respectively.

The new station, which is to be erected on Monte Ceneri, is expected to be in operation by the end of this year. It will have an energy of fifteen kilowatts unmodulated power in the aerial.

SPEEDING-UP IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss air traffic company known as Swissair, which was formed as the result of the amalgamation of the two firms Ad Astra Aero and Balair and is the most important civil air transport company in Switzerland, has ordered two Lockheed Orion four-passenger high-speed transport monoplanes, each with a 525 h.p. Wright Cyclone engine, to be placed on their routes this summer. They will be used on the Zurich-Vienna route and to expedite the trans-Atlantic mails between Cherbourg and Basle and other interior points of Europe.

The Lockheed Orion is a low-wing cabin monoplane with a retractable undercarriage. With the Cyclone engine it has a top-speed of 225 m.p.h. and a cruising speed of 185 m.p.h. They will be the fastest commercial machines in regular operation in Europe this year.

Swissair has hitherto used exclusively Fokker F.VII-3m. monoplanes with three Wright Whirlwind engines each, and with these machines has operated extensive routes between various points within Switzerland and to a number of important centres of Europe, the latter in conjunction with the Deutsche Luft-Hansa, Air Union, C.I.D.N.A. and the Czechoslovak Air Traffic company.

EXPULSION OF THREE ITALIAN SUBJECTS.

The Federal Dept. of Justice has expelled Riva Francesco, Bazzi Gian Luigi and Lanzetti Giuseppe, all three of Italian nationality, for conspiring against the security of the Confederation.

MEETING MOTTA-TARDIEU.

A meeting between M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation and M. Tardieu, the French Premier, took place last week at Geneva. It is learned that the Zone Dispute was the subject of their conversation.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Professor Dr. Emil Brunner of the Theological Faculty of the University at Zurich has been made a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Edinburgh.

Two little tiger babies have been born at the "Zoo" in Zurich, both the mother and the offspring are doing well.

URI.

A new landslide at the Axenstrasse, between Siskon and Flüelen has taken place, and the road is at present barred to traffic.

GLARUS.

Owing to the financial crisis, the Wollweberei Rütli A. G. was compelled to reduce their staff; over a hundred work hands have received notice.

BASLE.

The Grand Council has voted a subvention amounting to 400,000fr. for the Municipal Theatre in Basle for the season 1932-1933.

AARGAU.

M. O. Schibler, member of the Cantonal Govt., has died at the age of 70. M. Schibler has been

a member of the Government of the Canton of Aargau since 1912.

SOLOTHURN.

The accounts of the Canton of Solothurn for 1931 close with a deficit of 1,081,899fr., a budget forecast estimated a deficit of 258,823fr.

VAUD.

Colonel Isaac Secrétan, son of Colonel Edouard Secrétan, a director of the "Gazette de Lausanne," has died at the age of 55. Colonel Secrétan was a member of the "Corps d'Instruction."

TICINO.

State Councillor Antonio Riva (Conservative) has been re-elected a member of Parliament with 5,500 votes.

FOOTBALL.

Switzerland 3 France 3
in Bern, 20th March, 1932.

At last that monotonous sequence of defeats has ended and we may congratulate our forward-line, on having found again their shooting boots, particularly our friend Trello, who did the hat-trick for good old Switzerland.

The weather gods were propitious, and a crowd of 23,000 spectators proved what interest this match provoked. The French Ambassador and Federal Councillors Minger and Musy honoured the two international sides by their presence. Our team lined up as announced in our last issue, except that the young Frigerio (Lugano), who played in his first international in Leipzig, was again called upon due to Schärer (Bern) having to stand down on account of injury. The first goal fell to France in the 14th minute, and it was left to the brothers Abegglen to equalise nine minutes later, Xam giving a beautiful pass to Trello who scored. Ten minutes later Frigerio was fouled and from the free-kick Trello got his second goal. Half time 2 : 1.

In the second half, Switzerland had rather more of the game, when in the 25th minute the French inside left equalised and barely one minute later the left-winger got France the lead, 2 : 3. Defeat once more stared into our faces; but no, in the last minute Trello completed his hat-trick and thus pulled the match out of the fire.

The defence acquitted themselves as well as ever. In the forward line the re-introduction of Xam at inside-left and Tschirren (Lausanne Sports) at outside right led to greater cohesion. Frigerio in the centre undoubtedly has the making of a first-class international in him; at present he is still lacking in experience, but he is only 19 and in a year or so should be just our man. Jaeck (Basel at outside-left disappointed many.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Urania 2 Young Fellows 3
Old Boys 0 Aarau 0
Blue Stars 2 Young Boys 0

In Groupe 1, Young Fellows are consolidating their position as runners-up. The other two matches leave the league-table of Groupe 2 unaltered. Old Boys' position is very critical. They are third from last with 11 points from 14 games, and Servette only just below them with 9 points, and Etoile Ch.-de-F. with 8 points, from 12 games. As the remaining matches of Old Boys are against Grasshoppers at home and Etoile Ch.-de-F. away, they must win them to escape relegation. But, can they?

FIRST LEAGUE.

Stade Lausanne 0 Grenchen 1
Olten 3 Fribourg 1
Winterthur 3 Chasso 1

Groupe 1. Stade and Fribourg have seriously jeopardized their chances of getting away from the last 3 places, but Grenchen goes from 4th to second, and Olten from 5th to third. In Groupe 2, I am pleased to see the wooden spoonists pulling themselves together. There is just a chance for Winterthur to escape. It would be most regrettable if that old and famous club should fall to League II.

The following international games were played on the 20th inst.,

In Vienna:

Austria 2 Italy 1
Austria thereby secure the "Europa Cup."

In Prague:

Czecho-Slovakia 1 Hungary 3

In Antwerp:

Belgium 1 Holland 4

M.G.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

EASTER 1932.

In countless churches and other religious assembly places, all over the Christian world, countless, fervid voices will, next Sunday, Easter Sunday, testify to the relief which, once again, fills our hearts when we remember the resurrection of our Lord.

Easter, the blessed festival of *Spring* is once again with us. Gone is the winter, gone are the cold blasts of winter's storms, gone are the long, dreary nights, gone the dark chilly mornings and before us opens up a period of bright, sunny, warm days, scented evenings and nights, in short, we are about to live again.

This resurrection, this miracle of Easter fills us every year with new wonder, fresh awe and, although we can explain the phenomenon quite easily and even scientifically, deep down in our hearts we feel that there is indeed something miraculous involved in this Easter or resurrection, something which touches not only our physical well-being, but makes our pulse beat faster, just because of its mysteriousness.

Easter renews our faith. It is far easier to believe in the goodness of mankind when life is sunny, than it is during the dark, unhealthy days of winter. It is far easier to have faith in the ultimate destination of mankind when indulging in one's favourite philosophical thoughts while ambling leisurely beneath the luscious green of trees in the proud panoply of their first foliage, than when the same thoughts assail us while we are struggling hard, backs bent, eyes smarting with the driven rain, ears aching with the fury of unwonted wind-pressure, across the barren heath or under leafless storm-twisted trees. In other words, creature comfort or otherwise determines to some extent our outlook on life, our philosophy, unless, indeed, we are ascetics.

In these times of general depression it must make us think sometimes when we reflect that even now, after 1932 years since the time of the first *Easter*, Christian humanity has made but little advance towards fulfilling the commands of the founder of our religion. Take that root-exhortation "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

It is a command which might well be taken as the basis of Christian, and probably also of several other religions.

As far as I can discern, a small beginning towards its fulfilment has been made, inasmuch as we are being taught when young to act accordingly. We learn later in life, that it is a maxim "which pays" and, therefore, a good maxim to follow in business. We have learnt too to base our political institutions on the same command, but only as far as each country is concerned. We have not yet learnt to adopt this command in our dealings with our foreign brethren, whom, because we still consider them to be foreign, we will not admit into our charmed circle. We still think that in dealing with foreigners, we must adopt other methods. Why? Nobody seems to be able to explain satisfactorily, and the results achieved are hardly such as to denote wisdom on the part of those who persist in believing that foreigners must be dealt with otherwise than what is considered and proved by experience, right, fit and proper when dealing with our own folk.

And so, because the World at large still persists in its refusal to acknowledge the common brotherhood of mankind, the world at large has to pass through untold miseries, so that it may learn the lesson.

The "economic blizzard" of which we hear so much nowadays, is, of course, directly attributable to the stupid disunion which separates peoples economically and politically.

The consequent miseries suffered in all countries at the present time, cannot be explained away by anything else.

And yet, have we not learnt at school that Union Makes for Strength? United we stand, disunited we fall, etc.

We *know* what is wrong, but we cannot alter it, or then only very slowly, one tiny little step forward at the time, for fear that we stumble. Would it not be a thousand times better to stumble on the way to progress and sanity, than to stand erect and still in the damp, unwholesome, loathsome spot in which humanity has stood for thousands of years and in which the air has almost given out and where suffocation seems the natural outcome of all the horrible mess.

It is seemingly evident that humanity has not reached its *Easter* yet. We are still in deep winter. We begin to understand slowly and painfully that there is a *Solidarity* which chains the various members of the human family together in iron chains, chains which are unbreakable, the chains of hunger, want, despair, of acute suffering and misery.

It may well be that poor humanity, so slow to learn from experience, must be made to feel, if it won't heed!

It may be too that after some time of misery, pain and trouble, Humanity will really begin to wonder why this *Solidarity* should not be made into a *Solidarity* of peaceful enjoyment?

If there is *Solidarity* — and who lives there to-day who could still be blind to the fact that if one member of the human family suffers, all the others suffer too? — why then, in Heaven's name, all this economical and political separation, why all this stupid Nationalism, why all these jealousies from one Nation to the other, from one country to the other?

Why endure Solidarity, instead of enjoying it?

That is my Easter-Query. Ask yourself the question and try to answer it, fearlessly and honestly, and in doing so, you will not only come nearer towards understanding the command of our Lord 'As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise,' but you may help, each in its place, a little bit towards preparing the way towards the desired goal.

DR. RUEFENACHT ON THE NEW BRITISH TARIFF.

AN N.S.H. DISCUSSION.

An interesting discussion on the new British Customs Duties and their effect on the Swiss exporting industries was initiated at the last monthly meeting of the London Groupe of the New Helvetic Society by Dr. W. Rüfenacht, who has recently taken over Dr. Rezzonico's work at our Legation. He gave a short, but very lucid account of the historic change in Britain's trade policy and of the present position of the numerous import duties. Being mainly occupied with Anglo-Swiss trade matters, Dr. Rüfenacht could speak with especial authority on the theme of his causerie. We hope, therefore, to publish his exposé of this all important subject-matter in an early issue of the Swiss Observer.

The main facts resulting from the recent political changes in Great Britain are only too well known. Ever since the Great War, quite a number of the most important Swiss export goods have been subjected to heavy import duties in England, be it under the McKenna-duties, the Key Industries Duties or the Safeguarding or Industries Duties. Dyestuffs have furthermore been subjected to severe import restrictions. Then, last Summer, came the drop of the pound, increasing the costs of Swiss imports in terms of English currency by no less than 40 to 50 per cent., and cheapening English exports, part of which compete with Swiss exports and the Swiss home industries, by about 30 per cent., as expressed in Swiss francs. On top of this heavy valuta-handicap, having the same effect as equally high duties and English export subsidies, were in November and December imposed the prohibitive Abnormal Importations Duties of 50 per cent. Now, since March 1st, all imports, excepting only a few raw materials and foodstuffs, pay a 10 per cent. duty, which the previously existing duties are maintained and additional duties to any amount may be imposed on any goods by the Government on the advice of the Tariff Commission.

Until the currency depreciation has communicated itself in a major degree to the British production and distribution costs, the foreign importers cannot hope to sell more than a fraction of their previous turnover in England. A few foreign firms have already started producing in England, and more will no doubt follow as the tariff walls are increasing. But this transplantation of industries, discouraged in Switzerland by the prohibition of the export of used machinery, is a costly, risky and slow process. Where it is feasible, manufacturing licences are sold to English firms. The most desirable part solution of the new problems would no doubt be new trade agreements between England and low tariff Continental countries, including Switzerland, for tariff preferences and a lowering of the duties generally. But England will not engage in treaty negotiations until after the Empire Economic Conference at Ottawa in July next. The possibility of Great Britain being able to force the highly protectionist countries of Europe and America to moderate their duties is the only consoling feature in this deplorable change of affairs which has set in since last summer. But it is to be feared that the currency-handicap to the importer from gold-standard countries and the currency advantage to the English exporter will only slowly disappear, whatever tariff arrangements may ultimately be come to.

Dr.E.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

SWISS CLUB "SCHWEIZERBUND." ANNUAL DINNER.

The practice inaugurated recently by another club in introducing "Swiss time" seems to recommend itself to our compatriots. The committee of the Schweizerbund had advertised its Annual Banquet to take place on Friday, the 18th inst., at 8 p.m., but it was well after nine o'clock when the company sat down to dinner. This tardiness was no doubt due in some measure to the liberal way in which the official guests who had all arrived in good time were entertained to the traditional "appetizers;" in fact, it may have been a happy forethought of the organizers to give our new diplomatic representative, M. Ruefenacht, ample opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the leading members of the other institutions in our Colony.

The chair was occupied by M. Ruefenacht, Secretary of Legation, and after the customary toasts of "The King" and "La Patrie" had been honoured, Mr. J. Christen, the President of the Club, rose and extended a hearty welcome to M. Ruefenacht, the official representative of the Legation. He continued by expressing his satisfaction at the large gathering which to him was all the more gratifying as the colleagues on his committee had exhibited some qualms over the holding of their banquet. Personally he held the opinion that it would have been a crime to break with the tradition and to set aside an annual event which the founders of the club and its predecessors had always considered an outstanding feature of their activities. If it had been found expedient to arrange the dinner on modest lines and to cut out champagne and coronas he was sure this would not interfere with the enjoyment. They had only one policy: to offer their members and friends "a home from home." Present conditions were somewhat irritating; he would not bore them with items of their balance sheet; he would only say that in normal times, it was an easy matter and a perfect pleasure to be President, Secretary or Steward of the Club. Mr. Christen terminated his address by asking the company to drink to the further prosperity of the "Schweizerbund."

Mr. H. Caluori, the Vice-President, submitted the toast to the official guests who were M. Marchand and M. Zimmermann (City Swiss Club), M. and Mme. Martin (Secours Mutuels), Mr. Lucca and Mr. Moresi (Unione Ticinese), Mr. and Mrs. Lettmann (Swiss Mercantile Society) Mr. Borgeaud and Miss Borgeaud (Union Helvetia), Dr. and Mrs. Egli (Nouvelle Society Helvetique), Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer (Swiss Choral Society), Mr. and Mrs. Wagner (Swiss Institute Orchestra), Mr. DeBrunner (Swiss Rifle Association), Mr. Brun and Mr. Reimann (Swiss Club Birmingham), the Rev. and Mrs. Hahn (Swiss Church) and Mr. and Mrs. Boehringer (Swiss Observer).

The "Bachelor" who was in charge of the toast to "The Ladies" was missing. In the words of the President, he had developed at the last moment, cold feet, a toothache and a stiff neck. Mr. Christen stepped into the breach; he compared the ladies present to a bed of white lilies and created general hilarity by jocularly enlarging on the beauties and frailties of these flowers.

M. Ruefenacht, who on rising was greeted by general acclamation, tendered the sincere regret of the Minister, M. Paravicini, at having been unable to attend owing to an important engagement. The Minister's misfortune was his good luck as it afforded him — M. Ruefenacht — the opportunity of spending a most enjoyable evening amongst compatriots. He was thereby also privileged to personally congratulate a few members of the "Schweizerbund" on having been rewarded honorary membership for long and loyal services rendered. They were: V. Albrecht, W. Hausermann, M. Girard, G. A. Blank, L. Koch and H. Schweitzer.

M. Pache, who throughout the evening had acted as toastmaster, regretted that in the distribution of honours the ladies were omitted: he felt that without their active support and co-operation the Club could not exist. It would not be delicate if he referred to their long services, but he could not help singling out Mrs. Scheidegger, Mrs. Horn, Mrs. Wetter, Mrs. Bernhard, Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Nanzler, and from the younger generation Mrs. Delaloye.

Mr. Lehmann closed the official part of the evening by returning thanks on behalf of the guests for the hospitality offered by the Club.

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