

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: - (1933)

Heft: 618

Rubrik: Home news

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: 12.12.2025

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

The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED 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.

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

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Telegrams: FREPRINCO. LONDON.

VOL. 13—No. 618

LONDON, AUGUST 26, 1933.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free) -	3/6
	6 " " " " " " " -	6/6
	12 " " " " " " " -	12/6
SWITZERLAND	6 Months (26 issues, post free) -	Frs. 15.00
	12 " " " " " " " -	14.-

Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postcheck-Konto Basle V 5718.



HOME NEWS



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

FEDERAL.

THE CALL OF THE MOUNTAINS.

In the mountainous lands there is a proverb which says that the gods defend their high places.

They have taken their toll ever since man, greatly daring, first turned his steps towards the skies. The bones of men lie under the eternal snows on all the tall ranges of the world. They sleep under the plume of Everest; they rest in the deep crevasses on the frowning slopes of Switzerland. And to that roll of men who have dared and lost must now be added the names of the four masters of Eton College whose deaths in our Alps have just occurred.

What is the urge that drives men to risk death to stand on the roof of the world? It is not the urge of fame. The gods of the mountains, all save one, have yielded long ago to the courage of man: only the great peak of the Himalayas stands lonely and undefeated. Men have scaled the unscalable; they have stood long since on the topmost pinnacles. It is not the urge of wealth. There is no gold on the mountains.

The urge is the urge of adventure. It is the necessity, deep down in a man's soul, to pit himself against the strongest weapons of nature: against the treachery of icy slopes, the grim menace of avalanches, the dreadful penalty of one false step. It is the call of daring. It is the desire in man to take up the abiding challenge of the heights, to defy the gods themselves in their high places.

For, though the mountains have been conquered, they have not been tamed. A hundred climbers may have stood on the summit, and, breathing the cold winds, have seen the world spread at their feet: the hundred-and-first may die. The mountains are unforgiving. They lie eternally in wait for a little slip, a little error of judgment.

But men climb upward, climb upward still. The risk of death, lurking for ever on the craggy hills, does not daunt them. Rather it spurs them on. That risk is the spice that gives mountaineering its keenest savour. Men risk it simply because, being men, they must throw down the gauntlet to nature, because the danger of death is not frightening but exhilarating, because the abiding challenge is there.

These four Eton masters, whose lives were lived in the service of youth, met their end in mankind's eternal struggle to conquer.

INTERNATIONAL GORDON-BENNETT COMPETITION.

There will be no Swiss entry for this year's Gordon Bennett balloon competition, which is taking place on the 2nd of September at Chicago.

MATTERHORN RECORD.

The guide Hermann Perren, of Zermatt, has climbed the Matterhorn (14,780ft.) twice in 24 hours and has now made 90 ascents in all.

THE SWISS PRESS.

The Swiss Press Association celebrates its fiftieth year of activity in 1933, and to mark the occasion will publish a book "La Presse Suisse" in the near future. This will be a complete reference work, and will include a fully-documented history of the newspapers of the country, and will deal with the question of the liberty of the Press and its application before the law.

The French-Swiss Press will be analysed, showing how the literature of this part of the country is reflected in the newspapers. Italian-Switzerland, represented by the Canton of Tessin, discussed in the light of the influence of Italy upon the newspaper Press, and the newspapers of Zurich, representing German-Switzerland, are discussed in an illustrated history.

A chapter is devoted to proving that in spite of the diversity of language the newspapers throughout the country bear a striking resemblance, and the book ends with an account of the work and activities of the Swiss Press Association.

The volume contains 320 pages, and will be sent to members of the Association. A few additional copies will be disposed of at Fcs. 5.60 by Dr. Ackermann, Luzerner Tagblatt, Lucerne. The book will not be offered for public sale.

LEAGUE BUILDING FLOOD.

The fire brigade was called to the League of Nations building in which the Disarmament Conference sits when it was flooded by the fiercest hailstorm in Geneva since last century.

Windows were broken, and firemen had to clear the flooded halls. The League Secretariat was also damaged by the storm, which was accompanied by heavy thunder.

LOCAL.

ZÜRICH.

On the main road between Ossingen and Stammheim a motorist came into collision with a detachment of the 17th military cycle company, several of the soldiers were badly hurt. The motorist, who was found to be the worse for drink, was arrested.

BERNE.

A burglar entered some private dwellings in Berne and got away with banknotes, jewellery and other articles to the value of over 20,000 frs.

The little historical town of Nenenstadt, on the Lake of Bieme celebrated, last Sunday the 300th Anniversary of their amalgamation with the canton of Berne, on this occasion a specially written historical play was performed.

Doctor Hans Bluntschli, at present Professor of anatomy at the University of Frankfurt a. M., has been appointed head of the anatomical Institute in Berne, in succession to Professor, Dr. Zimmermann (Dr. Bluntschli, a noted scientist, has lately encountered troubles with the Nazi authorities, and a change of air will no doubt be welcome to our eminent countryman).

BASLE.

Prof. Dr. Karl Nef, the eminent teacher of Music, and a former editor of the "Schweizerischen Musik Zeitung," has celebrated his 60th birthday Anniversary.

GENEVA.

Geneva has commemorated the 60th anniversary of the death of the Duke of Brunswick, the greatest benefactor the city ever had.

The Duke's life was full of quixotic adventures, and it was as a result of one of these that the city inherited his huge fortune.

Having lost his throne the Duke in 1832 tried to raise an army in France. An order for his expulsion was issued, and he was duly escorted in a postchaise to Orbe, on the Swiss frontier, where he was received with honours by the local authorities.

Several months elapsed before it was found that the distinguished refugee was not the Duke at all, but one of his servants who bore an extraordinary likeness to him.

When the trick was discovered the Duke fled from France to Geneva. Forty years later he left all he possessed to the city of his refuge.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

National Councillor Bringolf, town President of Schaffhausen, and head of the cantonal communist party has entered upon his nine days confinement, to which he was condemned by the tribunal of Baden, for having made some public speeches, endangering thus the safety of the state. (Some town President).

SCHWYZ.

The official opening of the new Schwyz-Stoos funiculaire took place last Saturday, to which representatives of the cantonal governments and the Press were invited.

VALAIS.

M. Franz Lochmatter, the famous Zermatt guide, who accompanied Dr. P. C. Visser in his exploration of the Karakorum Range in Northern Kashmir in 1922 and 25 was killed while descending the Weisshorn with M. Hotz, the director of

electrical works at Rawalpindi, in India. They were making a double-rope descent over the Great Gendarme when the rope slipped from the rock to which it had been attached. Both men fell about 1,200 feet and were killed.

Franz Lochmatter had at one time been guide to the late Sir Edward Davidson, president of the Alpine Club, who wrote of him:—"It may quite confidently be said without risk of exaggeration that he has at present no living superior as a cragsman, and although his power in this particular respect has perhaps diverted attention from his excellence as an iceman, he is absolutely first-rate in this regard also, as indeed he is in all the minor details of guidecraft. ..." In India Lochmatter attracted much attention by continuing to wear his Swiss mountaineering hat and climbing outfit while on his way to and from Kashmir. Dr. Visser wrote of him in *The Times* in May, 1925:—"He was as much at home among the giants of the Karakorum as on the peaks round his native valley at St. Nicholas. With unerring sureness he guided us through glacier labyrinths, over peaks and passes, and even in bad weather his wonderful mountain instinct never failed him."

FUERSORGE FUER BLINDE AUSLANDSCHWEIZER.

Im Jahre 1932 erreichte die Unterstützungssumme, die wir für blinde Auslandschweizer entrichteten die Höhe von Fr. 4371.30 Einen Teil dieses Betrages Fr. 1150.— erhielten wir wiederum von der Schweiz. Stiftung für das Alter," als Zuschuss an die Unterstützungen greiser, blinder Auslandschweizer.

Leider machte uns die Schweiz. Stiftung "für das Alter" die Mitteilung, dass sie sich infolge starken Rückganges der Einnahmen veranlassen sehe, die Unterstützungen nach dem Auslande künftig einzustellen. Wir müssen also in Zukunft auf diese wertvolle Einnahmequelle verzichten und werden mehr denn je auf die freiwilligen Gaben unserer Gönner im Auslande angewiesen sein.

Unsere Unterstützungen waren im Berichtsjahr wie immer sehr willkommen. Ein blinder Mann, der sich dank unserer Hilfe einen Erholungsaufenthalt in der Heimat gönnen durfte, schrieb uns:

"Wenn ich auch sehenden Auges meine Heimat nicht schauen kann, so kann ich doch mit den Landsleuten reden. Wer seine Kindheit in der Schweiz verlebte und die Schule besuchte und all' die schönen Vaterlandslieder in sich aufnahm und wer im August 1914 die Hand zum Schwur erheben durfte, der sehnt sich immer mehr nach der Heimat."

Einer kranken, blinden Schweizerin ermöglichen wir einen Erholungsaufenthalt am Meer, usw.

Die Not unserer blinden Landsleute zeigte sich in mannigfacher Art und wir waren froh, dieselbe wiederum für ein Jahr ein wenig lindern zu dürfen.

Wir danken allen Wohltätern, die uns durch ihre gütigen Gaben diese Hilfe ermöglichen und bitten sie herzlich, uns auch in diesem Jahre beizustehen, sei es, dass sie neue Freunde für unser Werk gewinnen oder selbst wieder eine Gabe spenden. Unsere Kasse ist am Ende des Jahres jweilen leer und es hängt deshalb ganz von unseren Freunden und Gönnern ab, ob wir unser Unterstützungswerk fortsetzen können.

Ist es schon ein grosses Unglück in der Heimat sein Augenlicht zu verlieren, so ist die Erblindung für den Schweizer im Auslande oft eine Katastrophe, da ihm dort nicht in gleichem Masse geholfen wird wie in der Schweiz und die Verhältnisse es ihm meistens nicht erlauben in die Heimat zurückzukehren.

Darum nochmals die herzliche Bitte: Helft unseren blinden, bedürftigen Landsleuten, auf welchen die Schwere Zeit doppelt hart lastet!

Gaben nehmen entgegen: die Schweiz. Gesandtschaften und Konsulate, die Redaktionen von Schweizerzeitungen im Auslande, sowie das Sekretariat des Schweiz. Zentralvereins f. d. Blindenwesen, St. Gallen.

Das Sekretariat des Schweiz. Zentralvereins f. d. Blindenwesen St. Gallen.